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FBIS-NES-87-248 CONTENTS *28 December 1987*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

28 December Middle East and South Asia Review 1

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Islamic Affairs

Jerusalem Committee Meeting Postponed to 4 Jan *[Rabat]* 5
    Saudi Request Cited *[KUNA]* 5

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat, Qaddumi Discuss Government-in-Exile *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 5
KUNA Reports 'Arafat Tunis News Conference 5
'Arafat Receives Gorbachev Message From Envoy *[Sanaa Voice of Palestine]* 6
DFLP's Hawatimah on Government, 'Uprising' *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 6

ARAB AFRICA

Chad

FANT, Islamic Legion Clash in Goz Beida 9
Libyan Planes Fly Over 4 Northern Towns 9

Egypt

Official on 'Right' To Cancel Camp David *[Dubayy AL-BAYAN 24 Dec]* 9
Mubarak Confers With Knesset Member Darawshah 9
    Levels Criticism *[Jerusalem TV]* 9
    Knesset Member on Talks *[Jerusalem]* 9
Mubarak To Visit Gulf 'First Half of January' 10
Al-Baz Reportedly To Visit Syria 'Very Soon' *[AL-WAFD 26 Dec]* 10
Foreign Minister Denies Ties Cut With Israel *[KUNA]* 11
    Ambassador Not Recalled *[AL-AHRAM 22 Dec]* 11
People's Assembly Condemns Israeli Practices 11
13 To Stand Trial for Attacking Diplomats *[Beirut]* 11
'Abd al-Majid on Uprising, Syria, Gulf *[Kuwait AL-QABAS 25 Dec]* 12
PLO Adviser Meets With Foreign Minister 13
    Leaves Cairo 13
Soviet Economic Delegation Arrives for Visit 13
Thai Military Delegation Arrives for Talks 13
FRG's Bangemann Departs Cairo for Luxor 13
Mubarak Receives French President Mitterrand 13
French Economy Minister Concludes Visit 13

Libya

Tunisia Decides To Restore Relations 14
Chad Fighting Spreads to South, Southeast 14
    Chadian Radio Cited 14

Reportage on Visit by Iranian Foreign Minister 14
  Arrives 26 Dec 14
  Speaks at Airport *[Tehran]* 15
  Meets Foreign Affairs Official 15
  Tehran Notes Talks 15
  Received by Al-Qadhdhafi 16
  Talks With Al-Qadhdhafi *[Tehran]* 16
  Meets PFLP's Jibril *[Tehran]* 16
  Confers With Jallud *[IRNA]* 16
  Ends Visit 28 Dec 17
  'Joint Statement' Issued *[Tehran]* 17
'Massive' Marches To Support Palestinians Held 17
USSR's Tretyak Ends Visit, Departs 18

Sudan

Al-Mahdi Returns From PRC, Sums Up Visit 18
Al-Mahdi Speech Urges SPLA To Lay Down Arms *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 19
Minister Denies Forces Killed Ethiopians 19
Joint Committee With Ethiopia To Meet 7 Jan 19
  Venues for Meeting Proposed 19
1,000 Garang Forces Killed in Kurmuk Battle 20
Commander Urges Kurmuk Citizens To Return Home 20
SPLA Issues Military Communique on Kurmuk *[Radio SPLA]* 20
  Denies Claim on Casualties *[Radio SPLA]* 21
SPLA Units Stop 'Enemy' Advance, Kill 57 *[Radio SPLA]* 22

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Inter-Gulf Affairs

Reportage on Eighth GCC Summit in Riyadh 23
  Kuwaiti Amir Arrives *[KUNA]* 23
  Bahraini Amir Arrives *[SPA]* 23
  Omani Sultan Arrives *[SPA]* 23
  Qatari Amir Arrives *[SPA]* 23
  King Fahd Outlines Goals *[SPA]* 23
  King Fahd Opens Summit *[Riyadh]* 24
  King Fahd Makes Statement *[SPA]* 25
  Secretary General Delivers Report *[SPA]* 26
  Bahraini, Qatari Amirs Meet *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 26
Iranian Gunboats Attack Saudi Oil Tanker *[Baghdad Voice of the Masses]* 26
Lloyds Cited on Attack on S. Korean Ship *[INA]* 27

Bahrain

Amir, Delegation Leave for Riyadh Summit 27
Egypt's Mubarak, Tunisia's Baccouche To Visit 27

Oman

Iraqi Envoy Conveys Message to Sultan Qabus *[INA]* 27
Sultan, Delegation Leave for GCC Summit 27

PDRY

People's Presidium Endorses Death Sentences 28

Qatar

Amir, Delegation Leave for Riyadh Summit 28

Saudi Arabia

- Syrian Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit 28
  - Received by King Fahd *[Damascus]* 28
  - Conveys Al-Asad Message 28
  - Departs Riyadh 28

United Arab Emirates

- President Leaves for GCC Riyadh Summit 28

IRAQ

- Saddam Husayn Chairs Cabinet Meeting 28 Dec 29
- Reportage on Gulf War Combat Operations 29
  - Liberian Tanker Attacked 29
  - Communique No 2,962 29
  - Communique No 2,963 29
  - Communique No 2.964 29
  - 5 Iranians Killed 30
  - Communique No 2,965 30
  - 'Large Maritime Target' Hit 30
  - 11 Iranians Killed 30
  - Communique No 2,966 31

ISRAEL

- Isolated Incidents in Territories; Calm Prevails 32
  - Curfew in Balatah 25 Dec 32
  - Curfew in 'Askar 25 Dec 32
  - DFLP Activist Detained 32
  - Balatah Curfew Lifted 26 Dec 32
  - Israeli Stabbed in Jerusalem 32
  - Jabalyah Camp Reopened 32
- IDF Prepares Prison Facilities in Territories 32
- Conflicting Reports on Number of Detainees 33
  - 150-600 Arrests Reported 33
  - Sources Confirm 650 Arrests 33
  - 800 Reported Detained 33
  - 1,038 Reported Detained 33
- Military Summary Trials for Suspected Rioters 33
  - Military Courts Begin Trials 33
  - Gaza Lawyers Boycott Courts 34
  - Mass Deportation Rumors Denied *[HADASHOT 27 Dec]* 34
- 70 Israeli Arabs Detained for 21 Dec Rioting 34
  - Rioters Termed 'Delinquents' 34
- Government Severs Contacts With Arab Councils 35
- 'Peace Now' Protests Against Territories Policy 35
- AL-QUDS on Distribution Ban in Gaza, W. Bank *[23 Dec]* 35
- Officer Suspended for Violating Firing Orders 35
- IDF on UNRWA Claim of Gaza Food Shortage 36
- IDF, Leaders Comment on Territories, Policy 36
  - Commander on Detentions 36
  - Peres, Rabin on Solution 36
  - Rabin on Latest Detentions *[THE JERUSALEM POST 25 Dec]* 36
  - Rabin Rejects Withdrawal 37
  - Rabin on Troops Deployment 37
- 3 'Terrorists' Captured on Jordanian Border 38
  - IDF's Mitzna' on Incident 38
  - Jordanian Complicity Rejected *[HADASHOT 27 Dec]* 38
  - Jordanian Troops on Alert *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 28 Dec]* 39

'Military Sources' Deny Intercepting Ship 39
Mubarak Accepts Plan for Tripartite Meeting *[DAVAR 27 Dec]* 39
Intelligence Chief on Syrian Military Strength *[HA'ARETZ 23 Dec]* 39
UPI Report on Mossad Infiltration 'Fabrication' *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 28 Dec]* 40

JORDAN

Amman TV Carries Husayn IZVESTIYA Interview 41
Statement on Israeli 'Deportation' Threat 41

LEBANON

U.S. Hostage Anderson Sends Christmas Message *[VOL]* 42
  Blames U.S. for Captivity 42
  Hostage's Statement *[AFP]* 42
Abu Nidal Statement on European Hostages *[AFP]* 42
  On Interrogation *[AFP]* 43
Fadlallah Calls for Release of Hostages *[AFP]* 43
2 Syrians Strangled in West Beirut 23 Dec *[VOL]* 43
Syrians Deploy in New Positions in Al-Biqa' *[RFL]* 44
Joint Patrol Hit by Amal Bomb in South 44
Crew of Israeli Tank Killed in Resistance Attack *[AFP]* 44

SYRIA

Commentary on Defining Arab Enemies, Friends 45

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Fighting Around Khowst Continues; Casualties 46
  5 Aircraft Reported Downed *[Islamabad]* 46
  Mujahidin Gains Reported *[KYODO]* 46
  Rebels Say Position Improved *[AFP]* 46
  La'eq Says Road to Khowst Open 46
  Mujahidin Deny Breakthrough *[AFP]* 48
  1,603 Rebels 'Crushed' 48
Mujahidin Report Claims Soviet Losses Increase *[IRNA]* 48
Mujahidin Down Soviet MIG Over Kabul Province *[IRNA]* 48
Rebels Attack Bus in Herat Province, Kill 28 49
  Homes in Herat Shelled 49
20 Surface-to-Surface Missiles Discovered 49
Najibullah-Led Delegation Departs For India 49
  Commentary on Najibullah Tour 50
  Najibullah Visits SRV *[cross-reference]* 50
Foreign Ministry Briefing on Najibullah, Khowst 50
BAKHTAR Statement on FRG 'Secret Agent' 51
BBC Cameraman Believed Killed by Rebels *[London PRESS ASSOCIATION]* 51

Bangladesh

President Reshuffles Cabinet Portfolios 51
  Finance Minister Resigns *[AFP]* 51
  Munim New Finance Minister 52
Protestors Stone Soviet Cultural Center *[AFP]* 52
President on Armed Forces' Role in Country 52
Ershad Optimistic on Solving Tribal Issue 52
Ershad Reiterates Promise of Fair Elections 53
Election Panel Announces Local Council Polls 53
Delhi Says Opposition Plans New Agitation 53

Opposition Parties Reaffirm Election Demand 53
President Ershad Asked To Lift Emergency 54

India

Tamil Nadu Official Dies; Acting Chief Named 54
Reportage on Riots, Violence by Mourners 54
  Shops Looted, Cars Stoned *[AFP]* 54
  AFP: Police Fire Kills 12 55
  AFP: Shoot-on-Sight Orders 55
  2 Killed at Funeral 55
Missing Soviet Scholar Requests Asylum *[AFP]* 55
Afghan President Arrives, Holds Talks 56
  Departs New Delhi for Vietnam *[BAKHTAR]* 56
Crackdown on Gurkha Front Members Continues 57
  1 Gurkha Supporter Killed 57
'Hardcore Terrorist' Killed in Punjab 24 Dec 57
Sikh Temple Official Killed by 'Terrorists' 57

Iran

Navy Fires Warning Shots at U.S. Helicopters 57
IRGC Shells Iraqi Supply Vessel 58
Majlis Speaker Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons 58
  Sermon on Social Matters 58
  Sermon on Palestine, Gulf War 61
Khomeyni Receives Groups of Officials 63
Millions March in Support of Palestinians 63
  'Text' of Marchers' Resolution 64
  Iraqi Bombing Plans Thwarted 66
  Foreign Minister on Marches 66
Thousands of Afghan Refugees March in Tehran 66
Afghan Refugees Attack Soviet Consulate 66
Khamene'i Sends Message to Muslim Students 67
Foreign Minister Velayati Departs for Libya 67
Netherlands Envoy Presents Credentials 67
IRGC To Test Tehran's Air Defense Systems 67
Tehran Cites REUTER on Ships Attacked in Gulf 68
  Saudi Tanker Attacked 68
Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue 68
  Communique No 3,060 68
  Communique No 3,061 68
  Communique No 3,062 68
  Communique No 3,063 69

Pakistan

2 Car Bomb Blasts in Islamabad Reported 69
  Islamabad Explosions Detailed *[AFP]* 69
  Zia, Junejo Condemn Blasts 70
  Junejo Visits Blast Sites 70
  President Visits Injured 70
Afghan Agent Sentenced to Death for Bombing 70
Spokesman on Afghanistan, Gulf, India 70
Police Battle Rioting Prisoners in Karachi *[AFP]* 71
Junejo Rejects Possibility of Mid-Term Polls 71
Zain Noorani Upgraded to Federal Minister 71

Sri Lanka

Finance Minister Calls for Early Elections *[AFP]* 71
President Laments Ramachandran Death 72
Ramachandran Death 'Setback' for Tamils *[AFP]* 72
President Receives Iranian Finance Minister *[IRNA]* 73
'Subversives' Sought in UNP Chief's Death 73
1st Group of Tamil Refugees Return From India *[Delhi]* 73
Clashes Between IPKF, LTTE Continue 73
  4 Killed by LTTE Blasts 73
  10 LTTE Members Killed 74
  State of Emergency Extended *[Delhi]* 74

28 December Middle East and South Asia Review

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Afghanistan

Battle for Khowst—The Gardez-Khowst highway has been "opened for normal traffic," Tribal Affairs Minister Sulayman La'eq declared 27 December in remarks quoted by Kabul radio. However, on the same day Lieutenant General Muhammad Nabi Azimi, first deputy minister of defense, told journalists that 9 km remained to be cleared, TASS reported. A mujahidin leader "vehemently denied" that government troops had broken the siege on Khowst, AFP reported, and he asserted that there has been "no change" in the situation around the beleaguered city where heavy fighting has been taking place. According to other resistance sources cited by the agency, Soviet-Afghan troops are "bogged down" in the Zadran Pass, and the guerrillas' position "improved markedly over the weekend." IRNA reported a mujahidin denial of Soviet reports that the rebels had suffered 1,500 casualties. On the contrary, only 50 mujahidin were killed and 150 wounded while 700 Soviet-Afghan troops were killed, IRNA claimed. The agency also reported that 9,217 Soviet and Afghan soldiers have been killed since 22 March, and that aircraft losses total 201 helicopters and 251 planes.

"At least one U.S. adviser" was among those killed in Khowst fighting, TASS reported 27 December; however, monitored Afghan sources have not been observed to corroborate or refute this report. A BAKHTAR statement 25 December announced that an FRG citizen of Turkish heritage confessed to being a German "secret agent" who had entered Afghanistan via Pakistan and had trained the resistance in the use of Stinger missiles. The statement noted that the man was turned over to the authorities by a former armed opposition group in Qandahar Province.

Demonstrations in Iran—The Soviet Consulate in Esfahan was attacked by "suspicious and unidentified" elements among protesters commemorating the ninth anniversary of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan 27 December, according to a statement from the governor general's office cited by IRNA. Several Afghans and policemen were injured, and some demonstrators were arrested. The same day, a "resolute protest" was presented by the Soviet ambassador in Tehran, and the Iranian charge in Moscow was summoned to the Foreign Ministry, Moscow radio reported, adding that "it was only by lucky coincidence that no one was hurt." The Soviets "demanded" that Iran "take all necessary measures to ensure the complete security" of Soviet citizens and property and that the USSR be compensated for damage to the consulate. "Thousands" of Afghan refugees also staged a rally in Tehran during which they chanted anti-Soviet and anti-U.S. slogans, IRNA noted.

Terrorist Sentenced in Pakistan—In Islamabad, a man thought to be a KHAD agent was convicted of responsibility for four bombings in Peshawar, and he was given 8 death sentences and 76 terms of life imprisonment, AFP reported 24 December.

Najibullah in SRV—President Najibullah and CPV General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh signed a treaty of friendship and cooperation in Hanoi 28 December, VNA reported, adding that agreements on cultural and scientific exchanges as well as visa exemption were also signed. In a banquet speech cited by Kabul radio, Najibullah stressed the "unshakeable friendly relations" between the two countries. He also emphasized the Afghan people's "profound respect" for the SRV as a "most firm anti-imperialist stronghold," noting that the Vietnamese forces' "shameful defeat" of the United States has become a "symbol for success" for those struggling for liberation. The Afghan president arrived in Vietnam for talks 25 December following a stopover in Delhi where he conferred with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, Kabul radio reported.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Gulf Attacks—The Iraqi Air Force hit another large maritime target off the Iranian coast 26 December, an Iraqi spokesman announced in a statement carried by Voice of the Masses radio. The strike came after a Saudi oil tanker was attacked and set on fire by Iranian gunboats in the southern Gulf the previous night, according to the radio. Tehran radio noted reports that "gunboats" had attacked a tanker "belonging to the Hijaz regime," as well as a South Korean vessel. Reporting on the Christmas Day attack on a South Korean freighter near the Iranian island of Abu Musa, London PRESS ASSOCIATION said three Iranian gunboats attacked the ship with rockets and machineguns, setting it on fire. Helicopters from a British frigate rescued the 20-man crew, 2 of whom were seriously injured. A Liberian oil tanker sailing from Saudi Arabia to Indonesia was also attacked by Iranian gunboats off Abu Musa 24 December, INA reported. In another incident the same day, IRNA reported that Iranian naval units fired "warning shots" at two U.S. helicopters that were "attempting to disrupt" Iranian patrol missions in the Gulf.

Other Action—"Large numbers" of Iraqi aircraft carried out "devastating" raids on Iranian military targets 25 December, pounding camps, troop concentrations, and military equipment in the Dezful and Shushtar areas of the southern front, according to an Iraqi communique carried by Voice of the Masses. IRNA reported that Iraqi warplanes attempted to attack marchers participating in "anti-Zionist regime rallies" in the cities of Khuzestan that day, adding that the planes were repelled by antiaircraft fire.

An Iranian communique cited by IRNA claimed that Iranian commandos inflicted over 200 casualties in a 24 December raid on Iraqi positions in the southern front.

Iranian Weaponry—Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi told the Majlis in a budget speech reported by IRNA that Iran is now manufacturing "sophisticated offensive chemical weapons," though he said it will not use these weapons unless obliged to. Iran is also planning to produce fighter aircraft, he said, and it has already begun sending domestically-manufactured "ballistic missiles" to the fronts.

GCC Summit

In a speech at the 26 December opening session of the GCC summit in Riyadh, broadcast by by Riyadh television, Saudi King Fahd urged Iran to listen to "logic, reason, and wisdom" and end the war with Iraq as soon as possible. A solution can be found now, he said, "but in a year's time force might be the only way." Fahd also made a statement to the conference, carried by SPA, in which he accused the Iranians of "directing their spears toward our hearts" and of seeking to export "ideas which are alien to our Arab and Islamic society." Nevertheless, he expressed hope that an end to the war will lead to the establishment of good relations between Iran and the GCC states.

Commenting on the results of the summit thus far, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal stated at a 27 December press conference that the Iran-Iraq war is the main concern of GCC countries, SPA reported. He also noted that "limited recommendations" on military cooperation were submitted to the GCC leaders from their military officials. On relations between GCC states, the prince confirmed that Qatar and Bahrain have agreed to submit their territorial dispute to the International Court of Justice. Asked about Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar's visit to Riyadh during the summit, Sa'ud al-Faysal said that Al-Shar' gave King Fahd a message from the Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad that "included a response" to the recent talks between Al-Asad and Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah.

Iran

Velayati in Libya—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati met with Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in Tripoli 27 December, Tehran radio reported, noting that the "Islamic uprising of the people of Palestine and ways to support the Palestinian struggle" were among the topics discussed. Velayati also expressed Iran's support for Libya in face of the "plots" of the United States, Israel, and "reactionary regimes such as Egypt." Reporting on Velayati's talks with the Libyan foreign liaison secretary the previous day, the radio cited Velayati's remark that the Palestinian "uprising" has "invalidated the compromising tendencies of most of the reactionary leaders of the region." The time is ripe for "progressive nations and Islamic forces" to establish "a resistance front to defend the oppressed Muslim people of Palestine in a more concerted manner than before," he added.

Internal Issues—Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani discussed recent rulings by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni during a Friday sermon broadcast by Tehran radio, and he urged "every faction" in the country to follow Khomeyni's "explicit views" without dissent. Explaining Khomeyni's 7 December ruling which permitted the state to enforce regulations on the private sector, Hashemi-Rafsanjani indicated that this was in response to the government's desire for greater powers to establish conditions in labor relations that favor the interests of workers. Khomeyni's ruling on the issue and his subsequent response to the objections raised by the Council of Guardians "have solved our 8-year problems," the Majlis speaker contended. He also commended other rulings by Khomeyni on corporal punishment and on the television broadcasting of foreign films.

Israel

Infiltration Attempt—The IDF apprehended and captured three "terrorists" who entered Israeli territory from Jordan the night of 25 December, Jerusalem radio reported, noting that the infiltration across the Jordan River occurred near Kibbutz Ma'oz Hayim, east of Bet She'an. One of the intruders was wounded in exchanges of fire. The terrorists are members of the Palestine Liberation Front, the group which carried out the 1985 "Achille Lauro" hijacking, the radio added. Commenting on the incident in an interview with Jerusalem television, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said he believes the infiltration was "against Jordan's wish to prevent such events," and he stressed that he has no evidence of Jordanian complicity in the operation. The commander of the IDF Central Command likewise told Jerusalem radio that the Jordanians are doing everything possible to prevent terrorists operating on their territory, and he said this was the first time in 10 years that such a heavily armed squad had crossed from Jordan.

Occupied Territories—Jerusalem radio said the security situation in the territories was quiet over the Christmas weekend apart from disturbances in two refugee camps and an unsuccessful hand grenade attack on a police jeep. A Jewish settler from Qiryat Arba' was slightly injured in Jerusalem 28 December when an assailant tried to stab him in the head. The radio reported that security forces have detained some 800 people since the beginning of the riots in the territories, most of them in the intensive sweep just before Christmas. Several dozen detainees have already been tried and sentenced to jail terms of up to 1 year. The IDF has suspended one of its officers for failing to strictly follow instructions on opening fire during the disturbances, the radio disclosed.

In the wake of warnings that rioters could face deportation, a "senior security source" told HADASHOT that while the defense establishment would "probably" like to expel "hundreds" of people, "realistically, we know that we are only talking about the deportation of several dozen." Meanwhile, Amman radio broadcast a warning by Jordan's Occupied Territories' Affairs Ministry that the Jordanian Government will adopt "suitable measures to foil any deportation to the East Bank of the Kingdom undertaken by the occupation authority."

PLO

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat described the recent U.S. abstention on a Security Council resolution criticizing Israel as a "positive stance" that is "more progressive than previous stances." Speaking at a 25 December press conference cited by KUNA, he added that the U.S. abstention followed an indirect "dialogue" between the United States and a PLO representative. Asked about plans to establish a Palestinian government-in-exile, 'Arafat declined to give his personal opinion on the idea, but he pointed out that some members of the Executive Committee have asked that this subject be pursued. However, the PLO will consult all Arab countries, including Syria, before deciding on such a project, he said.

'Arafat received the Soviet ambassador to Tunisia the same day, Algiers Voice of Palestine radio reported, noting that the envoy delivered a message from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev reaffirming the USSR's support for the Palestinian people's struggle under the leadership of the PLO. In another diplomatic development, Fatah Central Committee member Khalil al-Wazir was received by Libyan leader Col al-Qadhdhafi 24 December, Tripoli radio disclosed, adding that topics discussed included ways of "escalating the armed struggle" against "the Zionist enemy."

Egypt

View of Peace Treaty—A 26 December People's Assembly statement cited by MENA emphasized that Egypt did not accept the peace treaty with Israel as a "separate solution," but as part of a process toward a "comprehensive and just peace" in the region. However, a comprehensive peace cannot be based on "terrorism, suppression, and attempts to annihilate one of the peoples in the region," the statement warned. Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid told Kuwait's AL-QABAS in an interview published the previous day that Egypt will continue to respect its peace treaty commitments "as long as the other party respects the conditions of the treaty." The Dubayy paper AL-BAYAN had earlier cited a statement by an Egyptian Foreign Ministry official that Egypt now has the right to "cancel or freeze" the Camp David accords because Israel has "violated" them.

Trial—The authorities announced 27 December that 13 people will stand trial on charges of belonging to "Egypt's Revolution," an organization which has claimed responsibility for attacks on U.S. and Israeli diplomats, Beirut radio noted.

Lebanon

Hostages—In a Friday sermon reported by AFP, Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah called for the release of Western hostages in Lebanon in exchange for the liberation of Palestinian and Lebanese "hostages" held by Israel and the SLA. Fadlallah's remarks on the hostage issue followed the release of a video cassette carrying a message from Terry Anderson, a U.S. journalist taken hostage in 1985. According to AFP, Anderson appealed to President Reagan to take action to secure the release of U.S. hostages, stating that "surely by now you know what must be done and how you can do it."

In another hostage development, Abu Nidal's Fatah Revolutionary Council announced in Beirut that it is continuing to interrogate eight French and Belgian prisoners seized from a yacht in November, AFP noted. The statement made no reference to reports from Paris that the captives will soon be released.

Syrians—Jerusalem radio cited Lebanese reports that a 130-strong Syrian unit has deployed in Mashgharah, a town in the southwestern Al-Biqa' Valley only 10 km north of Israel's "security strip." In Beirut, two more Syrian soldiers were killed the night of 23 December, according to Voice of Lebanon radio. On the identity of those carrying out attacks on Syrian forces, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon cited a magazine report that the "Liberation Battalion" is the nucleus for "independent Islamic resistance to the Syrian occupation." The battalion is reportedly headed by Kan'an Naji, a former official of the Islamic Unification Movement.

Libya

Soviet Visit—USSR Deputy Defense Minister General Ivan Tretyak carried out a detailed inspection of Libya's air defenses during his 20-24 December visit, according to "well-informed sources" cited by TANJUG. Tretyak's delegation reportedly considered that Libya has made progress in this field, though "urgent measures" are needed to enable the system to act effectively.

Denial on Chad—JANA denied a Chadian claim that its forces repulsed another incursion by the Islamic Legion 24 December, asserting that this legion does not exist except in the "imagination" of "the Ndjamena gang," which "shamelessly repeats its lies." Stressing that there are no Libyan troops in the Goz Beida region, where Chad said its forces killed 24 intruders, JANA claimed that the fighting was linked to a "revolution" against the Hissein Habre regime.

Sudan

Kurmuk Situation—A "military communique" broadcast by SPLA radio 24 December acknowledged that government troops are in control of Kurmuk. The communique noted, however, that the SPLA has "achieved all its immediate objectives" and is now "conducting guerrilla warfare deep inside southern Blue Nile." Government forces in Kurmuk are "virtually quarantined" and "besieged on all sides," the communique stated. A rebel spokesman told SPLA radio that the government had suffered "very heavy casualties" during the fighting while the SPLA lost about 30 killed in action and 92 wounded. Government figures amounting to some 3,000 killed were dismissed as "wild claims."

For the government's part, Foreign Minister Ma'mun Sanadah denied an Ethiopian assertion that Sudanese troops crossed the border and killed eight Ethiopians during the conflict over Kurmuk, SUNA reported 26 December. Sudan harbors no "bad intentions" toward Ethiopia, the minister declared. In remarks also cited by the agency, the commander of the Kurmuk "Lions' Leap" operation invited all citizens to return home and "resume their normal life."

Invitation to Peace Corps—The Council of Ministers approved a memorandum from the Foreign Ministry recommending that the U.S. Peace Corps be invited to resume work in Sudan, Omdurman radio reported 27 December.

PDRY

The Presidium of the Supreme People's Council confirmed the death sentences passed on former leader 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and 10 adjudged coconspirators in the 13 January events, Aden radio announced 27 December. The council also commuted death sentences handed down against 24 others to 15 years in prison with hard labor, reduced another convict's term to 7 years, and ordered the release of two inmates.

Islamic Affairs

Jerusalem Committee Meeting Postponed to 4 Jan

LD261637 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] Today, official sources have stated that the Jerusalem Committee meeting, which was scheduled to convene tomorrow, Sunday, in Morocco, has been postponed until 4 January.

It is worth mentioning that His Majesty King Hassan II, may God protect him, called for an emergency meeting of the Jerusalem Committee to discuss Israeli violations in occupied Arab territories and in holy Jerusalem.

Saudi Request Cited

LD260844 Kuwait KUNA in English 0817 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Dec 26 (KUNA)—A Jerusalem Committee meeting scheduled to open Sunday in Rabat to discuss Israeli oppression in the occupied land has been postponed to January 4, at Saudi Arabia's request. Riyadh is hosting the 8th GCC summit which opens tonight, it was reported here Saturday.

Morocco's official television announced yesterday that 11 of the 14 members of the Jerusalem Committee agreed to take part in the urgent ministerial meeting to discuss Palestinian uprising in the occupied lands.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat, Qaddumi Discuss Government-in-Exile

JN250757 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Following the remarks by several Palestinian officials—and particularly Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, PLO official in charge of information—it was Yasir 'Arafat's turn yesterday to affirm the PLO desire to establish a government-in-exile. Previously Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh had said such a government-in-exile would proclaim an independent state in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem. Speaking at a press conference in Tunis yesterday, Yasir 'Arafat said Amin Qasim, the PLO legal adviser, has been asked to study the legal and political aspects of the proposal to establish a government-in-exile. He said the Palestinians intend to establish an independent state on every inch of liberated land and in every area evacuated by the Israeli occupation forces.

A few hours earlier, Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, had declared that the idea of a government-in-exile was proposed to the PLO by fraternal and friendly states. Qaddumi, however, did not name these states. Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, had said that the issue of establishing a government-in-exile was premature.

KUNA Reports 'Arafat Tunis News Conference

LD251006 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0921 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Tunis, 25 Dec (KUNA)—Mr Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, has stressed that the martyrs of the popular uprising witnessed by the occupied Palestinian territories are more than the number declared by the occupation authorities. Up to now there have been 62 martyrs, 533 wounded, and 1,700 detained from the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Nazareth. Therefore the number of those detained in the major detention camps is 6,000, distributed among the detention camps of Sarfand, Ansar 2, south of Hebron in Al-Zahiriyah, and in another detention camp between Nablus and Ramallah.

In a news conference held here yesterday, Mr 'Arafat added that the current popular uprising is the fiercest, pointing out that it began in October last year when the demonstrations erupted in protest against the siege of the camps in Beirut. He said that this uprising, which is coming in the form of waves, will not be subdued and the massacres committed by the Zionist enemy will not affect its will. The Palestinian leader said that he has addressed messages to the UN secretary general, leaders of the nonaligned countries and EEC countries, Arab leaders, Soviet leaders, socialist countries, and China regarding the decision of the enemy's government to expel the Palestinians to Jordan. He stressed that he will continue contacting the leaders of the EEC countries and China about this issue.

He added that, in this concern, he has had contacts with the Arab countries and that the Arab League secretary general, in his turn, will carry out similar contacts.

Mr 'Arafat directed his comments to Yitzhaq Shamir, Israeli prime minister; Rabin, Israeli defense minister; and Sharon, former Israeli defense minister, and said that the Sabra and Shatila massacres did not affect the Palestinian march and the massacres now will not affect the march. Mr 'Arafat stressed that the Palestinian people's uprising will continue. [passage omitted]

In reply to a question about the U.S. abstention on the Security Council resolution and whether he considers this a positive development, he said that the Security Council's resolution on the uprising in the occupied territories expresses international public opinion and gives international legitimacy to the just struggle against the racist and fascist Israeli occupation which terrorizes our people, our heroes, and our women. He added that we consider the U.S. abstention a positive stance; it is more progressive than previous stances and has revealed the continuation of the dialogue between the PLO representative and the United States.

He expressed his belief that the U.S. position changed during the Washington summit, which was demonstrated by an acceptance of the idea of an international peace conference. He said that the Soviet envoy, who met with him recently in Baghdad, told him that an international conference has been discussed and that the U.S. and Soviet sides will continue to discuss it at the level of experts.

During his news conference 'Arafat revealed that the dialogue continued between the PLO representative and the United States via a third party for a full week before the adoption of the Security Council resolution. He said that he does not forget "that our heroes are being killed by U.S. weapons used by Israel and we do not forget the unlimited support given by the United States to Israel." [passage omitted]

On the issue of establishing a Palestinian government-in-exile, the PLO chairman pointed out that some members of the Executive Committee have asked that this subject be pursued and it was referred to Dr Anis al-Qasim, head of the legal committee of the PLO Central Council, to discuss it with Palestinian, Arab, and friendly experts and to give an opinion on it. Mr 'Arafat refused to give his personal opinion on this project. [passage omitted] He firmly denied that Abu Jihad's [Khalil al-Wazir] visit to Tripoli has anything to do with the subject of forming a Palestinian government-in-exile. He added that before deciding on such a project, the PLO will consult all Arab countries, including Syria, and also all its friends everywhere in the world. [passage omitted]

Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, on Wednesday stressed that such a government "will declare an independent state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip." On this concern, 'Arafat restricted himself to saying that the Palestinians "will establish their state on every inch of the liberated territories or the territories from which Israel will withdraw." [passage omitted]

'Arafat Receives Gorbachev Message From Envoy

JN251710 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, has received a message from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, CPSU general secretary. This took place when Brother Abu 'Ammar met with the Soviet ambasador in Tunis. The meeting was attended by the ambasadors of the socialist countries to Tunisia and a number of PLO Executive Committee members.

WAFA has learned that the message includes the Soviet leader's congratulations to Brother Abu 'Ammar on the new year. The message also praises the Palestinian people's revolution in the occupied Palestinian territories. In his message, the Soviet leader affirmed the Soviet Union's constant stand on the Palestinian people's cause and the Soviet Union's support for the Palestinian people's struggle under the PLO, their sole, legitimate representative, to achieve their national legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination and the establishment of their indpendent state.

DFLP's Hawatimah on Government, 'Uprising'

JN241915 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1744 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Telephone interview with DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah, "who is currently in Libya," by Antoine Abu Samrah on 24 December—recorded]

[Text] [Abu Samrah] Here is the interview I held a short while ago with Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the DFLP, who is currently in Libya. My first question was on his opinion of yesterday's reports concerning the possible formation of a provisional Palestinian government in exile. Let us hear his reply.

[Begin recording] [Hawatimah] This question was raised for discussion at the PLO Executive Committee meeting in Tunis. However, it was immediately agreed that it was premature and that no action could be taken on it under present circumstances because this would require enormous efforts with all fraternal and friendly forces. For this reason in particular, the question has been shelved for the time being because all of our concentration—and this is the important thing—should be on the general uprising in the occupied Palestinian territories so it can achieve its objectives.

Foremost of these objectives is the departure of the occupation forces from the towns and camps and their replacement by a UN observer force to protect the inhabitants, especially since the UN Security Council resolution has clearly pointed out that the Israeli occupation forces are not carrying out the Geneva convention concerning occupation and are practicing repression in all of its broad, sanguinary forms. The Security Council resolution pointed to the necessity to protect the Palestinian inhabitants in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Furthermore, the uprising must achieve its purposes, after the rivers of blood have flowed, by cancelling the British mandate emergency laws which are based on administrative detentions and the deportation of people from the occupied Palestinian territories. It would then be possible for the people to live under normal conditions. It is also essential to cancel the mounting taxes which the Israeli occupation forces and the Israeli state are enacting to further impoverish the people, destroy the economy of the occupied Palestinian territories, and attach this economy to the Israeli economy.

Therefore, all of our concentration must be on the general upheaval and ways to promote it so it will achieve its present purposes on the ground. Efforts must not be diverted in other directions.

[Abu Samrah] But the uprising has taken place and has continued for several days. How long can this uprising continue?

[Hawatimah] In all candidness, I tell you and all the sons of the Palestinian people, as well as the masses and all democratic forces in this world, that the uprising will continue until it achieves its real purposes, foremost of which is the departure of the occupation forces from the towns and Palestinian camps and the cancellation of the British mandate emergency laws and the mounting taxes, thereby enabling people to live their normal life so that international will can establish the presence of international observers to supervise this people's right to self-determination and get rid of occupation.

[Abu Samrah] Do you mean the inhabitants of the occupied territories should conduct their daily life through a form of autonomy?

[Hawatimah] No, this issue must be supervised by the United Nations within the framework of an observer force which would ensure the right to self-determination for the inhabitants of the occupied Palestinian territories. Whatever these inhabitants decide should be enforced. The occupation cannot possibly continue forever and the general uprising is the accurate expression of the sufferings of 20 years of continuous, sanguinary occupation in which Israel is practicing all forms of organized terrorism.

[Abu Samrah] Do you believe the uprising in the occupied terrirtories could help expedite the international conference or direct or indirect negotiations?

[Hawatimah] It could help expedite the convocation of an international conference with full powers. We all know that a general Palestinian will was decided under the national unity in Algeria and also a general Arab unanimity on the need for an international conference which was announced at the Arab summits, the latest being Fes and Amman. There is also a very broad international will at the United Nations and in all regional blocs from the EC to the Nonaligned Movement. They all insist on the need to convene an international peace conference.

Our people may have been disappointed by the results of the Washington summit where the U.S. Administration represented by Reagan, as it has already become obvious and I am very certain of this from reliable sources, rejected the idea of an international conference with full powers to solve the Middle East question and its central issue—the Palestine question. It is time the Palestinian people found a way to determine their own destiny and to attain national independence.

Therefore, I say this general uprising may have convinced the U.S. Administration and many nations that there will be no solution in the Middle East as long as the Palestinian people are under occupation and Palestinians are scattered in the diaspora. There can be no solution except within the framework of a comprehensive, just solution. This calls for an international conference with full powers as agreed at the United Nations last November by a majority vote of 129 and with the opposition of only the United States and Israel.

[Abu Samrah] Before ending this interview, I must ask you this question: You have been away from Damascus for some time now. Yet you have made several statements calling for Palestinian-Syrian reconciliation. First, what is the real reason for not visiting Damascus? Second, what has become of the reconciliation efforts?

[Hawatimah] Concerning the first point, the matter does not rest us with us, but with our Syrian brothers. We have contributed by restoring the unity of the PLO at the Algiers unity conference, which was convened through a series of Palestinian, fraternal Arab, and friendly international initiatives. We played a tangible role to this end out of our belief in this people's right to represent themselves within the framework of a broad national front under the PLO. At this conference, we adopted very good resolutions concerning our Syrian brothers. We are firmly convinced that if it had not been for the unity which was achieved in April, the PLO would have been absent at the Amman summit because all of the pressure was geared toward maintaining the split so it would be possible to jump over the Palestinian people's right to represent themselves.

Now, we believe as in past years that the cornerstone for the struggle to end the Zionist Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan heights, the Palestinian territories, and southern Lebanon lies in rectifying Syrian-Palestinian relations. We are continuing these efforts with full determination. We are fully confident that whoever really wants to resist separate bilateral solutions and the Camp David accords and to promote the Palestinian, Syrian, and Lebanese people's struggle to get rid of the occupation and to ensure these peoples' right to determine their own destinies and to choose their own forms of social systems must begin with the unity of the PLO.

Our hand is extended to those brothers who have not yet participated in the negotiations to do so to restore the unity of the Lebanese nationalist forces which were shattered 5 years ago and to rectify the relationship between Syria and the PLO because this is the cornerstone in the joint action against the common enemy who is occupying our territories. We are all against separate bilateral solutions. This is the way to unify the frontline forces carrying out the uprising and to enhance Arab power anew so that the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question will come to the forefront in the Middle East and so it will also be possible to mobilize all of the friendly and fraternal forces along the course of this basic struggle from which all of our peoples have suffered.

[Abu Samrah] In the end, are you optimistic that the next interview we may hold with you will be in Damascus?

[Hawatimah] I am definitely optimistic because we have covered a lot of ground on this course. The media campaigns between the PLO and our Syrian brothers have stopped. An indirect dialogue has also taken place. And, I believe, it will soon be crowned by a direct dialogue which will rectify the relationship. We and our Syrian brothers are in one trench against a common enemy. We must benefit from what took place at the Amman summit and the lessons of the past 5 years. We have no other choice but to unite in the same trench against the common enemy who is occupying our territories. [end recording]

Chad

FANT, Islamic Legion Clash in Goz Beida

AB251900 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1850 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Military Communique No 102 issued by the FANT High Command on 25 December in Ndjamena]

[Text] As previous communiques have reported, another column of the Islamic Legion has once again tried to penetrate into Chadian territory from Sudan. It was intercepted and put into disarray by the FANT on Thursday, 24 December 1987, in the Goz Beida region. Here is the partial result of this fighting. On the enemy side: 24 dead, 2 prisoners of war, and 19 light weapons captured. On the FANT side: nil. The pursuit continues.

Libyan Planes Fly Over 4 Northern Towns

AB251954 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1855 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] [Words indistinct] an open complicity of the Sudanese authorities with the Libyan regime, no longer is a single voice raised in Khartoum to prevent the destabilization activities carried out from Sudan by the barbaric regime in Tripoli.

The Khartoum authorities chose complicity rather [words indistinct] in recent days, an exchange of missions between Tripoli and the Sudanese capital. Sudanese Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, accompanied by the commander in chief of the Sudanese Army, General Fawzi Ahmad al-Fadil, last week paid a visit to Tripoli.

The wave of Libyan infiltrations into Chadian territory in recent days leads one to believe that Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi was instructed by Tripoli to give permanent approval to the Libyan aggression against Chad from Sudan, and apparently this is what he is now doing.

Libya, for its part, is continuing its bellicose policy towards Chad. Apart from these infiltrations and concentrations of troops in the northern and eastern parts of the country, the Tripoli regime has been violating with impunity the cease-fire ordered by the OAU on 11 September 1987. Yesterday, the Libyan Air Force once again flew over four localities in northern Chad, namely, Bardai at 1400 [1300 GMT], Zouar at 1500, Ogoum at 1300 and 1500, and Ounianga Kebir at 1700. This demonstrates Al-Qadhdhafi's desire to annex our country.

Egypt

Official on 'Right' To Cancel Camp David

JN271346 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 24 Dec 87 p 1

[Text] Cairo—Ambassador Taha al-Farnawani, director of the Palestine Affairs Department in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, yesterday said Israel has violated the 1979 Camp David Accords and that Egypt now has the right to cancel or freeze these accords.

The ambassador urged the United States to honor the commitments to which it officially adhered when the accords were signed. These commitments provide for the adoption of sanctions against the party that does not abide by the accords. Al-Farnawani said Palestine is an active member of the Arab League and that the articles and implementation of the collective Arab defense pact apply to it. He added that Israel, through its practices, has undermined the security of the whole region.

Mubarak Confers With Knesset Member Darawshah

Levels Criticism

TA242010 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] President Mubarak says that the continuation of the current situation in the territories will affect relations between Israel and Egypt. Mubarak condemned the IDF forces' conduct in the territories, leveling criticism at the oppressive measures and what he described as the killing of children. He said this in a meeting with Knesset member 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah in Cairo.

Darawshah told our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari that Mubarak received him with kisses and warmth. Among other things the Egyptian president leveled criticism at Defense Minister Rabin's latest declarations. He said he had not expected to hear such remarks from a Labor Party person, hoping that Rabin would express himself differently from Yitzhaq Shamir.

Mubarak praised the demonstrations staged near Minister Ari'el Sharon's house in the Old City, as well as Peace Now's demonstration in Tel Aviv. He emphasized Egypt cannot be indifferent to a situation of continued occupation and lack of progress toward peace accords. He said this is an artificial situation which cannot last for long. Nobody can expect to have peace presented to him on a silver platter, Mubarak said, emphasizing that immediate action should be taken, before the eruption of additional violence.

Mubarak said he cannot compel the Al-Azhar University to accept Israeli Arabs for studies since the student and lecturers associations are opposed to this. He is prepared to consider the establishment of a special framework for religious studies by Israeli Arabs. In addition, Mubarak revealed interest in Darawshah's proposal that a convention take place in Cairo in April with the participation of Israeli Palestinian figures, PLO members, and Egyptian figures for a dialogue on problems of peace.

Knesset Member on Talks

JN242140 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Telephone interview with Knesset member 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah in Cairo by radio correspondent Yitzhaq Halevi]

[Begin recording] [Darawshah] I met today with President Husni Mubarak in a lengthy meeting that lasted for approximately 1 hour. The reception was very good, warm, and we embraced. Dr Usamah al-Baz, the president's adviser and head of the President's Office, attended the meeting. As a matter of fact, we held discussions and exchanged views on political developments in the region and also on what is currently taking place in the occupied territories. We also held discussions on Israeli-Egyptian relations and assessed the position of Israeli Arabs and the international developments in general.

[Halevi] Reports were circulated yesterday or the day before to the effect that Dr Usamah al-Baz is ready to come to Israel. Have you heard him say this?

[Darawshah] As a matter of fact, I extended an invitation to Dr al-Baz to visit Israel. He accepted the invitation and said he is ready to visit Israel. However, regarding the date of the visit, no date has been set. He said he would study the circumstances, hold contacts, and set the suitable date. In principle, he accepted the invitation and promised to make the visit. He added that he would also be pleased to meet with the representatives of the Arab community in Israel and also with official and popular figures in the country.

Today President Mubarak reiterated what was emphasized by Dr Usamah al-Baz yesterday regarding his positive assessment of the role being played by the peace movements in Israel, the peace forces, and the young generation. He said this is a positive phenomenon in Israeli society and added that he wishes them all growth and success.

[Halevi] You have also met with a number of other officials during your stay in Cairo. Who are they?

[Darawshah] As matter of fact, the officials with whom I met were the president and Dr Usamah al-Baz. It is possible I may meet with other officials during the remaining period of my visit. However, I met with writers and thinkers. I even met with retired Field Marshal al-Jamasi [former Egyptian defense minister]. In a lengthy meeting, we held discussions on the assessment of the regional situation. In general, I can say the Egyptian public and the Egyptian news media are fully preoccupied with the issue regarding what is currently taking place in the territories. Everyone is discussing the issue and reiterating that moves must be initiated and that the camp which is hostile to peace must not be allowed to succeed, since this would lead to another round of violence that may engulf the region.

Therefore, President Mubarak said today that there is an urgency regarding the peace process. He added that the situation should not be taken lightly since peace is not an accomplishment presented on a golden plate. Rather, the president said peace is achieved by initiating moves and not by awaiting further killings and tragedies.

[Halevi] Knesset member 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah, will you carry a message from President Mubarak to Israeli officials?

[Darawshah] As a matter of fact, there was a discussion of the overall situation. I cannot interpret and go into detail regarding what took place at this meeting. Upon my return, I will talk with the officials about what transpired today. However, I have not come to Egypt as a representative of the Israeli Government; neither did I carry a message from the Israeli Government. I was not officially entrusted to play an official role. It was a personal initiative on my part to hold a meeting with the Egyptian president, therefore, I am not carrying an official message.

Serious talks were held on the prospect of unfreezing the situation in the region and advancing the peace process and also on ways to prevent the situation in the region from deteriorating.

[Halevi] When shall we see you here, God willing?

[Darawshah] On Sunday morning, God willing. I will return home on Sunday morning. I wish you all comfort.

[Halevi] You are most welcome. [end recording]

Mubarak To Visit Gulf 'First Half of January'

NC271833 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1809 GMT
27 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 27 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak will visit a number of fraternal Arab Gulf countries during the first half of January at the invitation of the leaders of these countries.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif disclosed this to MENA today. He said that during this tour, Mubarak will visit Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, Bahrain, Qatar, and the Sultanate of Oman. Al-Sharif noted that President Mubarak will meet with the brother leaders of these countries. [passage omitted]

Al-Baz Reportedly To Visit Syria 'Very Soon'

JN272007 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
26 Dec 87 p 1

[Text] AL-WAFD learned that Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and the president's adviser for foreign affairs, will visit Damascus very soon. Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, Saudi crown prince and deputy prime minister, played a great role in providing an opportunity for a new Egyptian-Syrian rapprochement during his tour last week of Baghdad, Damascus, Cairo, and Amman.

During his visit to Damascus, Dr al-Baz will discuss a number of outstanding and urgent topics concerning past Egyptian-Syrian relations. The talks, however, will not deal with the resumption or normalization of diplomatic relations.

Foreign Minister Denies Ties Cut With Israel

LD250836 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0811 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Kuwait, 25 Dec (KUNA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has denied that his country will sever relations with Israel, pointing out that matters between the two countries have not yet reached that stage.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS published today, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that Egypt is extremely concerned about the developments in occupied Palestine during the past 15 days. His country is seriously working to end the terrorist policies and oppressive practices of the Zionist occupation authorities against Palestinian citizens in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, which have caused hundreds of casualties, dead and wounded, and detained thousands.

He pointed to Egypt's efforts in all areas for ending the bloody events there and for making the Zionist authorities understand the necessity of changing their oppressive methods and of learning a lesson from the strong uprising, which is widespread in all of Palestine and which proves to all those who oppose a peaceful settlement that it is the only way to resolve this issue.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid welcomed the rapprochement attempts between his country and Syria through efforts exerted by some Arab sides, stressing that many issues and goals are shared by the two fraternal countries.

He denied that the Camp David Accords, which were signed by his country in 1978, during the reign of former President Anwar al-Sadat, might impose any restrictions on Egypt or its Arab or regional political will, and stressed that Egyptian foreign policy is dictated primarily by its national interests.

Ambassador Not Recalled

JN251127 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 22 Dec 87 p 8

[Text] Ambassador Hasan 'Isa, deputy director of the Israel Department at the Foreign Ministry, has stated that Egyptian ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni has not been recalled to Cairo and that he is not in Egypt at present.

People's Assembly Condemns Israeli Practices

NC261638 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 26 Dec (MENA)—The People's Assembly has declared its condemnation and outrage, expressing the anger of the Arab people in Egypt as a whole, at the Israeli occupation authorities' practices in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem. These territories enjoy the protection of international agreements as long as they are under occupation by Israeli forces and until these forces have completely withdrawn from them and the Palestinian people have regained their freedom and their ability to determine their own future.

In a statement after its session today, which was chaired by Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, the People's Assembly stressed its full adherence to Egypt's international commitments. It said it had not accepted the peace treaty with Israel as a separate solution. Rather, it had accepted the treaty as a part of the process of arriving at a comprehensive and just peace in the region as a whole, on condition it would be followed by measures leading to comprehensive peace.

In the statement, which was unanimously approved, the People's Assembly asserted that a comprehensive peace cannot be based on terrorism, suppression, and attempts to annihilate one of the peoples in the region. Peace, the statement added, must be based on justice and on respect for the UN Charter, the Human Rights Declaration, and the basic principles of international law which forbid the policy of annihilating any part of human race.

In its statement, the People's Assembly called on the parliaments of the world to declare their strong condemnation of what is happening in the occupied land of Palestine and to appeal to the conscience of the world to help end the policy of violence and force, which only produces more violence.

In conclusion, the People's Assembly praised the efforts of political leaders in Egypt in connection with the adoption of the recent UN Security Council resolution. It commended the government's serious efforts to bring about the desired just settement through an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations.

13 To Stand Trial for Attacking Diplomats

NC280607 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] The Egyptian authorities confirmed for the first time yesterday that 13 people will stand trial on charges of belonging to Egypt's Revolution Organization. It should be recalled that the organization had claimed responsibility for a series of attacks on U.S. and Israeli diplomats in Cairo.

'Abd al-Majid on Uprising, Syria, Gulf

JN261713 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 25 Dec 87 pp 1, 19

[Interview with 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, by Shawqi al-Rayyis in Madrid; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Rayyis] For more than 2 weeks, Palestinian citizens in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip have been subjected to ugly repression by the Israeli occupation authorities. While there is indignation and condemnation throughout the Arab homeland, sights are set toward Egypt, the only Arab country where the Israeli flag flies. What is the Egyptian Government's stand on such developments?

['Abd al-Majid] From the very first day of the Israeli repression of the uprising of the Arab citizens in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, Egypt strongly condemned this repression and did all that it could to stop it. We were the first to act at the United Nations to bring about the condemnation of such actions. We endeavored with friendly countries to persuade them to join such condemnation unequivocally and strongly. Egypt's representative delivered a statement at the UN Security Council condemning such Israeli actions.

I sent a message to Shim'on Peres, Israeli vice prime minister and foreign minister, asking him to put a speedy end to the acts of violence against the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. I also asked our ambassador in Tel Aviv to convey to Israeli officials and circles our condemnation of such actions, for they obstruct the march of peace. I assure you we are extremely worried about such developments in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and we urge all to end them quickly.

[Al-Rayyis] You are undoubtedly aware that the Arabs in general, and the Palestinians in particular, expect from Egypt more than mere condemnation of Israel's present actions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. There has been talk about the possibility of severing relations between you and Tel Aviv.

['Abd al-Majid] We have not yet reached this stage. However, as I have said, we resorted to the strongest forms of protest against and condemnation of such Israeli actions. We are making every effort to end these actions and to persuade the Israelis that it is in their interest to change their present policy. The Israeli people cannot continue to be in such a state of turbulence. The current uprising and rebellion in the occupied territory should be a lesson to those who oppose a peaceful settlement to the Middle East crisis and persist in resorting to force and violence.

[Al-Rayyis] Some believe that the events in the occupied territory and the development in the Egyptian stand provide an opportunity for genuine rapprochement between Cairo and Damascus as a prelude to total reconciliation.

['Abd al-Majid] There is no hostility between us and Syria. Syria is a fraternal Arab state. We share many pan-Arab issues and goals despite our differences of view over some matters. We welcome any attempt by brothers and friends to bring us and the Syrian brothers closer to each other. Undoubtedly, the situation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip increases such rapprochement, as we are both interested in unifying the Arab ranks to find a solution to the future of Arab citizens in the occupied territory and to the Middle East crisis as a whole.

[Al-Rayyis] The Syrians stipulate that the peace treaty between you and Israel should be abrogated as a condition for complete and total reconciliation on the basis that the Camp David Accords are the reason for Egypt's isolation in the Arab world and its deviation from the path of united Arab action.

['Abd al-Majid] We have repeatedly explained to the Arab brothers that our interpretation of the peace treaty is different. The Camp David Accords do not place any constraints on Egypt's decision-making or on Egypt's political will at the Arab or regional levels. Egypt's foreign policy is drawn up by the Egyptian Government and is primarily dictated by our national interests. We are talking about understanding and rapprochement, and no state has the right to impose its conditions on any other state. Egypt absolutely refuses to have conditions like this imposed upon it. We will continue to respect our commitments as long as the other party respects the conditions of the treaty.

[Al-Rayyis] The Egyptian Government has declared its readiness to send weapons and forces to the Gulf if Kuwait or any other Gulf state is attacked by Iran. At what point would Egypt's direct intervention in the war become necessary?

['Abd al-Majid] At first I would like to say that Iran must realize that it cannot continue its policy of stalling and prevarication in the face of the appeals to end the war and implement international resolutions, particularly Resolution 598. Iranian officials can no longer ignore the futility of the war and persist in their intransigence. Egypt is very anxious to view the security of Kuwait and the Gulf states as part of its own national security, and it always approaches developments in the Iraqi-Iranian war from that principle. Contacts with the brothers in Kuwait and the other Gulf states are continuing on all levels. Be sure that Egypt will carry out its pan-Arab duty toward any aggression threatening Kuwait's security or stability.

[Al-Rayyis] When do you expect the PLO office to reopen and relations between you and the PLO to be officially restored?

['Abd al-Majid] Remember we hoisted the Palestinian flag over the PLO office in Cairo on the day of world solidarity with the Palestinian people on 29 November. There are absolutely no crucial differences between us and the PLO. Contacts with the PLO have never ceased. As for the coolness in relations between us following the latest PNC session in Algiers, it was merely a summer cloud that has dispersed and matters are now back to normal. We hope that official relations will be resumed soon, God willing. Allow me to say that the Palestinian cause is also the cause of the Egyptian people. They believe in its justice and salute the Palestinian resistance people in the occupied territory.

PLO Adviser Meets With Foreign Minister

NC261647 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met today with Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to Yasir 'Arafat. The meeting was attended by PNC member Sa'id Kamal and PLO representative in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qudrah. The conferees reviewed current Arab and Palestinian developments. The Palestinian delegation expressed its appreciation for the stand of the Egyptian president, government, and people toward the popular uprising sweeping the West Bank and Gaza Strip protesting the continuing Israeli occupation and showing their rejection of Israel's suppressive measures against the Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories.

Leaves Cairo

NC271959 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1936 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 27 Dec (MENA)—Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, left Cairo for Riyadh this evening at the conclusion of a 1-week visit to Egypt, during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak.

During his visit to Egypt, the Palestinian official had also held talks with Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, as well as with a number of senior Egyptian officials. The discussions dealt with the Palestinian issue and the conditions in the occupied territory.

Soviet Economic Delegation Arrives for Visit

NC270703 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 27 Dec (MENA)—A Soviet economic delegation led by Vladimir Burmistrov, deputy minister of foreign trade, arrived here early this morning on a 4-day visit to Egypt.

In an arrival statement, Burmistrov said that a trade protocol between Egypt and the Soviet Union, covering the period from 1988 to 1991, will be signed during his visit, adding that, according to this protocol, the volume of barter trade deals between the two countries will rise from 500 million to 1 billion sterling pounds. He also stated that he will hold important talks with Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, on ways to promote bilateral economic cooperation.

Thai Military Delegation Arrives for Talks

NC242237 Cairo Mena in Arabic 2145 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 24 Dec (MENA)—Phichit Kunlawanit, assistant deputy commander in chief of the Thai Army, arrived in Cairo from Tel Aviv this evening, leading a military delegation for an official 3-day visit to Egypt.

Phichit will meet with Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, on Saturday. They will discuss military cooperation between Egypt and Thailand. He will also make a field tour of the Suez and 'Uyun Musa areas.

The Thai guest was received at the airport by Majdi Sabri, the new Egyptian ambassador to Thailand, and the commander of the central military region.

FRG's Bangemann Departs Cairo for Luxor

NC241555 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 24 Dec (MENA)—FRG Economics Minister Martin Bangemann left Cairo for Luxor this evening to conduct a tour of archeological and tourism sites in Luxor and Aswan. It is worth noting that as part of his visit, which came in response to an invitation by the Egyptian Tourism Ministry, Bangemann will spend the Christmas holiday in Egypt.

Mubarak Receives French President Mitterrand

NC261112 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 26 Dec (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received French President Francois Mitterrand at the Presidential Palace in Al-Qubbah this afternoon. Mitterrand is currently paying a private visit to Egypt.

French Economy Minister Concludes Visit

NC280715 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 28 Dec (MENA)—Edouard Balladur, French minister of state in charge of economy, finance, and privatization, left Cairo this morning following a week-long visit to Egypt during which he met with President Husni Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Libya

Tunisia Decides To Restore Relations

LD281430 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali telephoned the brother leader of the revolution. This conversation took place in the presence of the members of the Tunisian party's Political Bureau.

During this conversation President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali informed the brother leader of the revolution that the Political Bureau of the Tunisian Party has convened and it has decided to restore brotherly political relations between Tunisia and the Great Jamahiriyah.

Chad Fighting Spreads to South, Southeast

LD261934 Tripoli JANA in English 1816 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 26, JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY—News emanating from Chad has stressed that the continuing revolution against the gang of Ndjamena has expanded in scope to include various regions throughout the country especially in south and south-east of Chad. Puppet Habre, through his [word indistinct] acknowledged that [number indistinct] of his mercenaries were killed. He had brought these mercenaries to (?support) him to face up to a revolution of the Chadian people which has escalated in a conspicuous manner against Hissein Habre.

Ndjamena radio has acknowledged that these mercenaries most of whom are Zairians, were killed in a battle that took place in the area of Goz Beida which lies in the depth of the southeast of Chad near the border with the Central African Republic.

Despite the exposure of the allegations of [words indistinct], the efforts of the gang living there to cover up the facts behind the continuing revolution (?that) is raging in Chad through circulating what it calls the taking place of battles between its troops and an Islamic [words indistinct] on the Sudanese border in (?face) of the categorical (?revelation) by the Brotherly Sudanese officials apart from the confirmation on the part of Great Jamahiriyah that what Ndjamena's gang calls the Islamic legion is an imaginary one being a figment of the morbid imagination of this gang [words indistinct] for there are bascially [words indistinct] Libyan troops in these areas so as to be a quarter involved in these alleged battles more [words indistinct] the frequent calls made by (?Arab Jamahariyah) to the organisation of African unity and its committee of good [words indistinct] the facts in this regard, the gang of Ndjamena (?not) ashamed at all in repeating its lies which no one listens to except (?the radio) stations of the capitals. Puppet Habre is regarded as their stooge and creation merely carrying out its orders.

Chadian Radio Cited

LD270005 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 26 December (JANA)—News from Chad confirms that the scope of the revolution raging against Ndjamena has widened and includes many regions in various parts of the country, especially in southern and southeastern Chad.

The agent Habre admitted, via his radio station yesterday, that 24 mercenaries, with whose help he sought to confront the Chadian people's revolution, which has escalated against Habre and his tribe in a noticeable way, had been killed.

Ndjamena radio also admitted that these mercenaries, the majority of whom were Zairians, were killed at a battle that took place in the Goz Beida region, situated deep in southeastern Chad toward the border with Central Africa. [passage omitted]

Despite the exposure of Ndjamena's claims and the efforts of the gangs squatting there to cover up the facts behind the revolution raging against them in Chad by circulating news that battles are taking place between their forces and the Islamic legion near the Sudanese border; despite the absolute denial of these claims by brother officials in Sudan, and the Great Al-Jamahiriyah's assertion that what the Ndjamena gang calls the Islamic legion is an illusory legion created by the imagination of that gang and their masters, and that there are no Libyan troops at all in those regions to be party to the alleged battles; and despite the Al-Jamahiriyah's repeated calls on the OAU and other good offices to send delegates to establish the facts pertaining to this, the Ndjamena gang shamelessly repeats its lies, and finds no listeners except in the radio stations of those capitals in which the agent Habre is regarded as a puppet and to whose orders and wishes he submits.

Reportage on Visit by Iranian Foreign Minister

Arrives 26 Dec

LD261410 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian foreign minister, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli this morning on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. Dr Velayati made a statement to JANA upon his arrival at Tripoli International Airport. He pointed out that his visit falls within the framework of bilateral consultation with brethren in the Great Jamahiriyah on issues of common interest. Dr Velayati hailed the relations between the countries and the two revolutions, in the

Great Jamahiriyah and Iran, and stressed that his consultations and discussions during this visit will contribute to consolidating and developing such relations in a manner that will serve their stances on issues of common interests as well as their confrontation with imperialist plots and threats.

Speaks at Airport

LD261735 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, Foreign Minister Velayati and his entourage arrived in Tripoli, at noon today, for a 3-day visit. He was warmly welcomed by the Libyan foreign minister, a number of Libyan officials and the ambassador and staff of the Iranian Embassy.

At Tripoli airport, in a press conference, our foreign minister said: This trip takes place in response to the visit by the Libyan foreign minister to Tehran. During meetings with Libyan authorities, bilateral relations and regional and international issues will be discussed.

He added: We will consider the recent Islamic Developments in Palestine and the struggles of the Muslim people of occupied Palestine against the Zionist regime, and as Iran and Libya are major supporters of the Palestinian revolution, we will discuss these moves and the actions necessary to strengthen the position of the Palestinian fighters.

He said: In the light of the plots hatched by imperialism against Iran and Libya, ways to combat these plots will be discussed.

Meets Foreign Affairs Official

LD262059 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Excerpt] The secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison had a meeting this evening in Tripoli with Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian foreign minister. Bilateral relations between the two countries and international and regional issues of mutual interest were reviewed. The popular uprising in occupied Palestine was discussed at the meeting. It was stressed that all capitulatory tendencies and dubious proposals must be met with a decisive reply, and that armed struggle is the only way to confront the Zionist enemy. [passage omitted]

Tehran Notes Talks

NC270744 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] The Central News Unit has reported that Foreign Minister Mr Velayati, who is currently in Libya at the head of a delegation, met yesterday with Mr Jadallah 'Aziz ai-Talhi, secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison. During this meeting, Mr Velayati referred to the importance of the close bilateral ties between the two countries and the need to further broaden, deepen, and consolidate them. He detailed the creation of tension by the United States in the region during his discussion on the regional situation and stressed the Islamic Republic of Iran's categorical and rightful stance.

Views were exchanged on the important regional and international issues, especially the uprising of the Muslim people of Palestine and the ways and means to lend support to the Palestinians' popular Islamic movement. Referring to the momentous uprising of the Muslim people within the occupied Palestine region and the demonstrations by a few million of our Muslim compatriots in our country last Friday as a sign of solidarity with the Palestinian struggle, Mr Velayati said:

Our people's approach to the Palestinian question is a revolutionary one. It supports the struggles of the Muslim people of Palestine and embodies the desire of all the Muslim nations. Fortunately, the recent movement and events in occupied Jerusalem have invalidated the compromising tendencies of most of the reactionary leaders of the region who have taken steps toward the proliferation of the Camp David Accords by forging ties with Egypt. In our view, this movement is not an ephemeral phenomenon, but a principled and durable movement which day by day becomes more deep-rooted and complete, as it has its basis in Islam.

He added: The most significant axis acting as a source of cohesion among the progressive countries of the region is the Palestinian question. The time has now come when the progressive nations and Islamic forces should join ranks and set up a resistance front to defend the oppressed Muslim people of Palestine in a more concerted manner than before.

With regard to the U.S. imperialist movements in the Persian Gulf, our country's foreign minister explained the nature of the United States and the aggressive character of its despotic administration, as well as its terrorist attacks on the various parts of the world, including Libya, and added: It is natural that the revolutionary countries' stance toward this aggression should be serious. We stand steadfast against U.S. threats and are more prepared than ever to defend the Islamic ideals.

Mr Velayati continued, stressing that the real objective of the United States and the colonialist powers' presence in the Persian Gulf is to prevent the downfall of Saddam. He said: In principle, the imposition of this war by the Iraqi Government on Iran is based on a U.S. plan, financed by U.S. revenues, and assisted by the silence of the international organizations and communities. They wished to undermine the Islamic revolution at its very inception and were ignorant of the fact that the scenario could backfire. It is Saddam who now awaits his imminent downfall.

Mr Jadallah 'Aziz al-Talhi, secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison in the Libyan Socialist Arab Jamahiriyah, elaborated on his country's stance on the regional situation and vehemently condemned the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf. He added: Since our last meeting, we have observed a bolstering of the despotic presence of the U.S. forces and their allies in the Persian Gulf. We say with regret that the Islamic world is facing a multilateral onslaught from world apostasy, which is spearheaded by the United States and continues to proliferate.

Mr al-Talhi then spoke on the Palestinian issue and, stressing the need for a revolutionary movement against Israel, he said: We view with apprehension how the return of Egypt to the Arab world is being manipulated. The objective of all these measures is the implementation of a policy that will propagate the Camp David Accords and culminate in the official recognition of the Zionist regime. He added: We are also of the opinion that the popular movement and valiant operations in occupied Palestine are the best response to those who have adopted the path of compromise.

The two sides also discussed and assessed their political, economic, and cultural ties. It was decided that a joint commission of the two countries should meet at the first available opportunity.

Received by Al-Qadhdhafi

LD271522 Tripoli JANA in English 1423 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, December 27, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution has received 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the delegation accompanying him.

Talks With Al-Qadhdhafi

LD271713 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, Foreign Minister Velayati met Libyan leader Colonel al-Qadhdhafi today. During the meeting, the foreign minister conveyed our president's greetings to the Libyan leader and they discussed bilateral relations and important regional and international issues, particularly the immense Islamic uprising of the people of Palestine and ways to support the Palestinian struggle.

Mr Velayati noted the U.S. efforts to create a permanent presence in the Persian Gulf and to impose its control over the region's countries, the decisive positions of the Islamic Republic of Iran in this respect, and the extensive mobilization of popular forces to oppose the United States. Stressing the need to expand cooperation among progressive Muslim countries to oppose the Camp David accord and the efforts aimed at extending it, our foreign minister condemned the joint plots of the United States and Zionism, and of reactionary regimes, such as Egypt, against Libya and declared the support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the fraternal country of Libya in the face of such threats.

Libyan leader Colonel al-Qadhdhafi announced his support for the positions of the Islamic Republic of Iran and for the necessity for the United States and its allies to withdraw from the Persian Gulf. The stressed the need for resistance and opposition to the expansionist policies of the United States and (?Libya's) support for the people of Palestine, who have wrought an immense crisis for the Zionist regime.

Meets PFLP's Jibril

LD271734 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that Muhammad Jibril, leader of the PFLP, met with Foreign Minister Velayati, who is visiting Libya, at the Iranian Embassy in Tripoli last night. At this meeting, they discussed regional issues, including Palestine.

Referring to the recent developments in the occupied territories, the Palestinian people's move against the occupiers, and the courageous operations carried out by Palestinian mujahidin against Zionist bases, Mr. Jibril stressed the need for expanding revolutionary operations against Zionist occupiers. He added: Under the present circumstances, it is the historical duty of all nations to confront those who say that Israel is not an enemy. The PFLP leader said: From the beginning we supported the Islamic revolution and this support will not lessen because the Islamic revolution of Iran supports Palestinians, and this support will not change either.

Mr. Velayati referred to the expressions of emotion by the Muslim nation of Iran toward the Palestinian nation and said: Last Friday demonstrations were held all over Iran to show support for the movement of Palestinian Muslims inside the occupied lands. Mr. Velayati added: Your enemies and ours, trying to prevent the forces of the Islamic revolution from reaching the occupied territories and helping the people of Palestine, imposed the war on the Islamic Republic of Iran. But the Islamic revolution will never stop. We will topple Saddam and we will help Palestine. We will destroy Israel with the help of all progressive and Islamic forces.

Confers With Jallud

LD281238 Tehran IRNA in English 1208 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 28, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, currently visiting Tripoli conferred with member of Libya's Leadership Council Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud on Tehran-Tripoli ties, regional and international issues, especially Islamic uprising of Palestinians in Tripoli Sunday night.

The two sides stressed on the need for further bilateral coordination in OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries), global circles as well as joint confrontation of the two countries against plots hatched by the Zionism and imperialism particularly Camp David Accord.

Also emphasised at the meeting was the necessity of formation of Tehran-Tripoli joint commission for promoting trade, economic, scientific and technical relations between Iran and Libya.

Velayati briefed the Libyan official on important developments in the region, presence of foreign fleets in the Persian Gulf and the Islamic republic's righteous stands. He placed an emphasis on strategic relations between the two countries.

Condemning the attempts made by the U.S., the Zionists and reactionary regimes of the region, the Iranian minister announced his country's support for Libya's Government and nation.

In response, the Libyan official adverted to the U.S. plots against his country and the Islamic Republic noting that the U.S. policy is almost the same for the two Muslim countries. "Those who fight against Iran and Libya, back the Zionist regime and suppress Palestinian militants," he said.

The global imperialism is trying to defeat OPEC, force down oil price, impose economic and military sanctions and aggress against Muslim revolutionary countries, he said.

Major Jallud condemned presence of the U.S. and its allies in the Persian Gulf, denouncing those who invited the foreign forces to the region.

Velayati, leading a delegation arrived in Tripoli Saturday for a three-day official visit.

Ends Visit 28 Dec

LD281211 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1122 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, 28 Dec (JANA)—Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian foreign minister, and the delegation accompanying him left Tripoli this morning ending a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Dr Velayati made a statement to JANA in which he expressed his thanks and gratitude for the welcome and generous hospitality accorded to him during his visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. He indicated that during this visit views on improving bilateral relations and also common issues were exchanged. The talks also dealt with the mass revolution in occupied Palestine. He stated that both countries reiterated their full support for the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people.

He added that during his talks in the Great Jamahiriyah, they emphasized that the sole way to liberate occupied Palestine is the continuation of the armed struggle, with a strong response to all capitulative tendencies.

'Joint Statement' Issued

LD281124 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] At the end of Foreign Minister Velayati's visit to Libya, the following joint statement was issued:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The joint statement of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Libyan Arab People's Jamahiriyah, on the occasion of the 26-28 December visit by Dr Velayati, the Iranian foreign minister.

During his visit Dr Velayati met with Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution; Major Jallud, and Jadallah al-Talhi, the secretary of foreign liaison, in an atmosphere filled with brotherly spirit and understanding. The two sides hailed the uprising of the Muslim and Arab Palestinian masses in the occupied lands. They expressed their full endorsement of that extensive uprising. The two sides stress to all that this uprising is a decisive reply to all plots aimed at disturbing the Palestinian ideals by way of compromising solutions.

Iran and Libya stand alongside the Palestinian nation with every facility at their disposal and support their struggles to attain their lost rights.

'Massive' Marches To Support Palestinians Held

LD251105 Tripoli JANA in English 1027 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Msiali, Al-Kanun [December] 25, AL-JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Various parts of Great Jamahiriyah witnessed marches (?in) support of the massive revolution of the Palestine Arab people in the occupied territory.

In Tripoli, the student masses in educational institutions in the municipality of Tripoli, went on a massive march of support and solidarity with the revolution of the Palestine Arab people against the Zionist occupiers of Palestine.

In Darnah, the Palestine Arab masses went on march in support of and solidarity with the Arab people in occupied Palestine and in condemnation of repressive barbaric practices of the Zionists against the people of Palestine in the occupied land.

Meanwhile, in Al-Khums, similar marches of solidarity with and support of the Palestine Arab people, took to the streets carrying Palestine national flag and portraits of the leader of the revolution and placards glorifying the courage of the Palestinian people in the face of Zionists crimes and savage practices with nothing more than stones and sticks.

The participants in these marches sent cables to the leader of the revolution in which they hailed the stands of the Great Al-Fatih [September] Revolution and its leader and their support for the revolution of the Palestine Arab people.

Also, statements were issued condemning the repressive and barbaric Zionist practices against the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied territory and stressing that the armed struggle was the only way to liberate Palestine. The statements also stressed that the massive people's revolution of Palestine Arab people in the occupied land was a clear rejection of the resolutions of the Amman summit and an indication of the determination of the Arab people in the occupied territory to continue their struggle against the Zionists racist [words indistinct] statements also stressed the (?readiness) of the masses to fight alongside their brothers in occupied Palestine confirming that armed struggle was the only way to liberate and regain Palestine.

USSR's Tretyak Ends Visit, Departs

LD241927 Tripoli JANA in English 1815 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 24, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—General Ivan Tretyak, the member of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party, the deputy defence minister and commander in chief of the Air Defence Forces, and his accompanying delegation left Tripoli this morning after a visit to Great Jamahiriyah.

At the farewell party, at Tripoli International Airport, General Ivan Tretyak was seen off by the commander of the air defence and some officers of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces and the ambassador and staff of the Soviet Embassy accredittd to Great Jamahiriyah.

General Ivan Tretyak gave a statement to JANA in which he hailed the results of his visit to Great Jamahiriyah.

He said that such meetings would strengthen our friendship and consolidate our relations.

Sudan

Al-Mahdi Returns From PRC, Sums Up Visit

EA252209 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and his delegation arrived home from the PRC in the early hours of this morning, after ending a visit which began last Monday [21 December] and during which bilateral talks were held. The Sudanese side was led by Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and the Chinese by acting Premier Li Peng. The talks resulted in the signing of two agreements. One is an economic agreement, signed by Prof Ibrahim Hasan 'Abd al-Jalil, the minister of trade, and the other is a cultural agreement signed by his excellency the Sudanese ambassador to the PRC. Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and his delegation visited the Great Wall of China. They also witnessed military exercises conducted with live ammunition at one of the Chinese military bases.

During his stay in the PRC, Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi met with PRC President Li Xiannian and CPC General Secretary Zhao Ziyang.

In another meeting, his excellency told the ambassadors of the African and Arab states about the Kurmuk incidents, the support being extended by Ethiopia to rebel leader John Garang, and Sudan's problems in the context of the developing states.

In an atmosphere of love and affection, he met the Sudanese students in the PRC, to whom he explained past and current events in the country. He urged them to cultivate other minds so as to be able to boost development when they return to the homeland.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and his delegation left Beijing airport at 1715 yesterday, Thursday morning. He was seen off by acting Premier Li Peng, a number of Chinese ministers, his excellency the Sudanese ambassador, members of the embassy, and the Sudanese students studying in the PRC.

The following is the text of the statement his excellency made on the results of his visit to China:

[Begin recording] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. Naturally it was good news and very pleasing to us here. I can only congratulate our Armed Forces and the Sudanese people on it. I think it was expected and a natural course of events. The idea is to prove once, twice, and three times to those carrying arms that acting violently against a democratic and peace-loving people who want to solve their problems wisely and seriously is ineffective. We hope that all this will underline that the only way to solve problems is by peaceful means and that these unsuccessful and useless attempts to solve national problems by depending on external support will cease. I hope that what has happened will drive home this point and evoke such a repsonse.

It is well known that the PRC is a friend to Sudan, but these days People's China is witnessing [word indistinct] the 13th Congress, very positive changes toward favoring openness to the outside world and reform. In so doing, China is undertaking great reforms and developmental efforts.

It is known that after the fall of the dictatorship and with its democratic line Sudan is also progressing on a new path. In fact, the visit was an opportunity to discuss cooperation in all its aspects—political, economic, commercial, cultural, literary, and so forth. I believe the visit was a success for us in every respect and for understanding China, its experience, and this stage of its experience. They too came to understand current developments in Sudan and their dimensions. Together we also reviewed the international aspects in which we can cooperate politically and diplomatically.

The economic and commercial fields and our well established relations in the field of military technology—all these were covered during this meeting. We believe that during the visit we succeeded in reaching agreements in all these areas, which is indicative of the firm relationship between the two countries and peoples. Sudan, God willing, will gain various benefits in all fields from this visit.

We talked a great deal about our joint interests. China, which [word indistinct] assists peoples weaker and poorer than itself, maintains relations which are based on donations and grants. We have developed on this occasion the concept of joint interests. We have prepared the way for China to cooperate with us in joint investments and to perform a greater role in the issue of tenders for the implementation of Sudanese development projects financed by others. China has the technology that enables it both to contribute to and benefit from these fields.

We dealt with aspects of the Sudanese economy from which China can benefit. We also dealt with diversification and expansion of bilateral trade. I therefore believe that in general, this visit has opened vistas to benefit from this new [word indistinct] and reforms from the points of view of Sudanese and Chinese joint interests. We will detail all these things, God willing, so that our people will learn what has been achieved in the various fields [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Al-Mahdi Speech Urges SPLA To Lay Down Arms

JN251808 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Sudanese Prime Minister al-Mahdi has appealed to the Sudanese People's Liberation Army led by Colonel John Garang to lay down arms and negotiate with the Khartoum authorities. In a speech broadcast over Omdurman radio, Al-Mahdi affirmed his intention to reinforce the Armed Forces. Addressing the forces of Garang, who has led an armed opposition in southern Sudan since 1983, he said: Those who have taken up arms must realize that Sudan is one of the pioneers in the fields of fundamental liberaties and human rights on the African Continent. We appeal to them to abandon violence, which will be of no use.

Minister Denies Forces Killed Ethiopians

JN261452 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum, 26 Dec (SUNA)—Foreign Minister Ma'mun Sanadah has denied that the Sudanese Armed Forces entered Ethiopia and killed eight Ethiopian citizens.

Speaking at a press conference in Khartoum today, Sanadah said that the Sudanese ambassador in Addis Ababa was summoned to the Ethiopian Foreign Ministry and handed a protest after Kurmuk was regained from Garang's forces. At that time, Sanadah added, the Sudanese ambassador assured the Ethiopian foreign minister that there was no incursion by the Sudanese Armed Forces into Ethiopian territory. Sanadah said the Sudanese ambassador also assured the Ethiopian foreign minister that the Sudanese Armed Forces are well disciplined and that Sudan harbors no bad intentions toward Ethiopia and its citizens.

Sanadah noted that he has asked the Armed Forces General Command about the allegations and the General Command has denied them. Sanadah speculated that the Garang forces may have killed the Ethiopian citizens when they withdrew into Ethiopian territory.

Sanadah also said that Sudan's request to transfer the OAU headquarters is being studied for it is linked to specific steps.

Sanadah indicated that the Sudanese Foreign Ministry has sent messages on the Kurmuk events and Ethiopian intervention to the OAU, the Arab League, and the UN secretary general so that the messages may be circulated among the member states of these organizations.

Sanadah denied Sudan has any expansionist ambitions in neighboring countries.

Joint Committee With Ethiopia To Meet 7 Jan

JN271034 Khartoum SUNA in English 1020 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum Dec. 27 (SUNA)—The Sudanese-Ethiopian joint committee will hold its first meeting 7 of next Jan., Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said to reporters yesterday. Contacts are underway between the two countries for the place of the meeting, Al-Mahdi said.

Venues for Meeting Proposed

JN281035 Khartoum SUNA in English 0917 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum Dec. 28 (SUNA)—Sudan has propsed to Ethiopia a list of six African countries to chose one of them as venue for the meeting of the joint ministerial committee scheduled for Jan. 7-10, Foreign Minister Dr Ma'mun Sanadah announced here Sunday.

He said the list included Egypt, Kenya and Uganda and the meeting will discuss means of normalizing the Sudanese-Ethiopian relations in accordance with the principles of the Organzation of the African Unity (O.A.U). Sanadah who is to chair the Sudan delegation to the meetings said Sudan will continue its search for peace and at the same time will work for liberating its territories from the outlaws.

It's to be recalled that, the meeting was agreed on between the two sides during a recent meeting between Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and Ethiopian leader Mengistu in Kampala in the context of the mediation to normalize the relations between the two countries.

1,000 Garang Forces Killed in Kurmuk Battle

JN241503 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Dec (SUNA)—The human losses sustained by the defeated Garang forces during the battle to recapture the border township of Kurmuk township totaled 1,000 killed, according to initial estimates.

This was announced by a responsible source at the People's Armed Forces General Command in a press statement made here today, Thursday. He added that the counting of the rebels' losses continues. He noted that the counting process is being impeded by the continuing advance of the Armed Forces in all combat theaters in the area.

The source said that the Armed Forces' losses reached 19 troops martyred, none of them an officer, while those wounded totaled 52, one of whom is a colonel and another a lieutenant colonel. It is worth noting that the People's Armed Forces recaptured Kurmuk township on the evening of 22 December following fierce battles.

The township fell to the Ethiopians and the Cubans on 12 November after they shelled it using rocket launchers and long-range artillery.

Commander Urges Kurmuk Citizens To Return Home

JN261444 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1416 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] Kurmuk, Sudan, 26 Dec (SUNA)—Staff Brigadier General Muhammad 'Abbas al-Amin, commander of the Lions' Leap operation, urged Kurmuk citizens to return home and resume their normal life after the Armed Forces took control of the situation there.

The staff brigadier general told SUNA that the Lions' Leap operation enabled the Armed Forces to recapture the border town of Kurmuk from the outlaw forces. He said this operation is considered the beginning of the end for the rebel remnants who sustained 1,300 casualties. He added that 23 soldiers were martyred and 65 others sustained various injuries and were evacuated yesterday, Friday. He also noted that the outlaws had recruited boys and children.

Last Thursday, a communique issued by the General Command said the Armed Forces killed more than 1,000 outlaws while 19 soldiers were martyred and 562 others were wounded.

SPLA Issues Military Communique on Kurmuk

EA241622 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Military communique on the Kurmuk and Southern Blue Nile operational zones issued by the office of the SPLM-SPLA chairman and commander in chief on 24 December]

[Text] Fellow countrymen: In the last few days Khartoum has been making loud claims about their successes in the Southern Blue Nile region. The situation is, however, quite different and quite fluid on the ground. The reality is that the SPLA is not fighting conventional warfare in Southern Blue Nile. The SPLA has by the capture of Kurmuk, Qaysan, and other garrisons in Southern Blue Nile effectively carried the war to what used to be called the north, and they caught Khartoum in their path. As a result, Khartoum resorted to fingers pointing outside the country, exhorting what they call their brothers in the foreign countries for military assistance and fanning up racial tensions in the country.

Compatriots, in Kurmuk and Southern Blue Nile, when the balance sheet is drawn, it is the SPLA that come up with very high marks and on top of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. Firstly, SPLA captured tanks, heavy artillery, very many trucks, millions of ammunition of various types, and other valuable equipment in Kurmuk, Qaysan, (Shali), Kayli, Khartoum Billayl, (Bab Koni), and inflicted very heavy casualties on the reactionary forces of sectarianism.

Secondly, as a guerrilla movement, the SPLA was able to hold Kurmuk for 40 days, during which Khartoum was on its verves, forcing the government to lose all sense of national responsibility as they blatantly and shamelessly talked about SPLA taking what they call their noble land, when no such talk came when SPLA captured bigger towns in the south, such as Rumbek, Yirol, Pibor, etc. and this exposes the ugly racial face of Al-Sadiq's government.

Thirdly, the SPLA has achieved all its immediate objectives in Kurmuk and has now forced the government troops to be stationary so as to conduct guerrilla warfare on them. The strategic objective of the SPLA in Southern Blue Nile was to bring the war to what used to be called the north and to conduct classical guerrilla warfare, as opposed to conventional warfare, and to recruit from the citizens of the Southern Blue Nile. All this has been achieved much more than the movement expected. The movement is now more aware of the vulnerability of Al-Sadiq's government and will rub salt on Al-Sadiq's wounds.

Government troops now in Kurmuk in their tens of thousands have been virtually quarantined and are totally confused. They are besieged on all sides by the SPLA and SPLA has blocked all routes to Kurmuk. It will be quite a headache for Khartoum to supply its large redundant force in Kurmuk, which are in classical guerrilla fashion [as heard].

SPLA will keep destroying convoys taking supplies to these forces and chase them away piecemeal until the movement converts Southern Blue Nile from a contested zone to a liberated area.

SPLA forces are now entrenched and are conducting guerrilla warfare deep inside Southern Blue Nile as far as Sawda near Damazin and have inflitrated the agricultural schemes, such as (Kananah).

The SPLA assures Khartoum that the last lap does not belong to Al-Sadiq. Khartoum has also been making concerted diplomatic and international propaganda about an alleged foreign intervention. The SPLA wishes to state categorically that there was never any foreign intervention on its side and there will never be in Kurmuk and in all operational areas. This is a purely Sudanese affair.

As it was announced over Radio SPLA before, the movement has a 6-hour videotape of the whole battle of the capture of Kurmuk. The SPLA leader will play this video in a press conference to be held as soon as time allows. This will prove beyond doubt that there was never any foreign involvement at Kurmuk. This bogus of foreign involvement is only for Khartoum to rationalize its severe beating by the SPLA at Kurmuk, to fan up racial tensions and buy itself that [word indistinct] of time, and to solicit for foreign support from what Sadiq calls his Arab brothers and other friends.

On the contrary, it is Khartoum that has involved massive foreign planning and material resources in the war. The evidence of this is provided by statements by Khartoum itself and those of their supporters. Al-Sadiq has in the recent press conference said point-blank that he is obliged to ask all assistance from what he called his Arab brothers at this hour of need. Certain foreign countries have made no secret of their solidarity with military assistance to Khartoum, and have in fact sent military advisers to help Khartoum in planning of Kurmuk operations and foreign troops have been flown in to guard vital installations.

The crisis in Khartoum caused by the SPLA's victories in Southern Blue Nile only underlines the strength of the SPLA, and as Peter Cyrillo [governor of Equatoria Province] correctly said: Exhortation, nice poetry, and short-lived propaganda will not defeat the SPLA, unquote. SPLA has more surprises and more Kurmuk's in store for the sectarian regimes of Khartoum. The struggle continues and victory is certain.

Denies Claim on Casualties

EA251748 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] The official spokesman of the SPLA High Command today dismissed as a package of lies even the most gullible cannot believe Khartoum's claim that they killed 3,000 SPLA soldiers in Kurmuk operations. If we assume a ratio of three wounded to one killed, this would mean 9,000 wounded, and if we further assume a ratio of two POW's to one killed, this would mean 6,000 SPLA POW's. In this scenario the total of SPLA soldiers killed in action, wounded in action and POW's, would be 18,000. The SPLA army in all operational zones is not more than 2,000.

The truth is that the SPLA from the beginning of Kurmuk operations committed 1,500 men, including the overall commander, and this constitutes 75 percent of its army. SPLA casualties killed in action to date, are not more than 30, with 92 wounded in action. It takes a man with very considerable naivity to make the wild claims made by Khartoum.

Commenting on enemy's casualties, the official spokesman of the SPLA said that Khartoum very well knows that it has suffered very heavy casualties as a result of SPLA's effective use of guerrilla tactics. Colonel (Kajjam), who led the first attempt, in his own words said he evacuated 177 wounded in action to Damazin that night. The spokesman said SPLA is not going to break over loss of human lives. Rather the SPLA is happy to say that it has a good number of POW's who were captured during the several battles in Southern Blue Nile. They are now commanded by Major Baqir Muhammad Baqir, who was captured with many others.

Khartoum says they have killed 3,000 SPLA soldiers, but they have not a single POW. On material losses to Khartoum the spokesman announced that Al-Sadiq's government lost 21 military aircraft during the last 6 weeks of fighting. These include two MIG-23 fighters. The spokesman said this was 100 percent reliable, as it came from Al-Sadiq's operations room. The public can investigate it from their own sources in the general headquarters, Khartoum. Most of these aircraft crashed as they were piloted by very inexperienced foreign pilots.

The SPLA shot down aircraft, including one MIG-23. The rest crashed and the cause of the crashes is fear in the hail of SPLA air defence fire and unfamilitarity with the area, as it was the first time for some of these pilots to be in the Sudan and the first time to fly combat missions as opposed to training missions. The aircraft were hastily acquired from a foreign country and the pilots from another for the Kurmuk operations. All in all the SPLA legitimately claims destruction of the 21 aircraft, a great disaster for Al-Sadiq. When the dust of short-lived euphoria settles down, Al-Sadiq will become more aware of the human and material resources he has lost in southern Blue Nile.

On the POW's being held by the SPLA to date, the spokesman said that they are several hundred, the highest rank being Lieutenant Colonel Salim Said. The spokesman said SPLA was ready to discuss conditions for the release of the POW's through the ICRC, if Al-Sadiq is willing to do the same.

SPLA Units Stop 'Enemy' Advance, Kill 57

EA261552 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Combined SPLA units of (Petrol) and (Munchar) under the overall command of alternate Commander (Maker Deng Marol) repulsed an enemy advance toward (Bakori) town on 20 December 1987. Correspondents say that 57 enemy soldiers were killed and several other were wounded. [passage omitted]

Inter-Gulf Affairs

Reportage on Eighth GCC Summit in Riyadh

Kuwaiti Amir Arrives

LD261545 Kuwait KUNA in English 1215 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Riyadh, Dec 26 (KUNA)—H.H. the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah arrived here this afternoon to take part in the eighth summit conference of the Gulf Cooperation Council states starting this evening. [passage omitted]

Bahraini Amir Arrives

LD261149 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1100 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 26 Dec (SPA)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of the State of Bahrain, arrived in Riyadh at 1340 this afternoon to attend the meetings of the eighth GCC summit conference. His highness was welcomed at King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz International Airport by the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud. [passage omitted]

Omani Sultan Arrives

LD261423 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1335 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 26 Dec (SPA)—His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, the sultan of Oman, arrived in Riyadh at 1510 today to attend the meetings of the eighth GCC summit.

He was met at King Khalid International Airport by the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. [passage omitted]

Qatari Amir Arrives

LD261152 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1140 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 26 Dec (SPA)—At 1415 today, His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad al-Thani, the amir of Qatar, arrived in Riyadh to attend the meetings of the eighth GCC summit. He was met at King Khalid International Airport by the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud. [passage omitted]

King Fahd Outlines Goals

LD261018 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0800 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 26 Dec (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, has declared that there are priorities for whose implementation the GCC is working and is committed to supply their necessities in order to achieve the aspired for integration.

In an interview published today in AL-JAZIRAH newspaper, he called for working toward preserving the gains accomplished by the GCC in order to secure growth, to widen, and to diversify these gains which will greatly benefit the entire group.

The custodian of the two holy mosques said that the GCC represents a fraternal coordination within the framework of the positive attitudes of the Arab League, which is working hard to make its role successful. The custodian of the two holy mosques denied that the GCC represents a regional axis which is removed, in its essence, from the Arab totality. He said that such an interpretation indicates inadequacy in those who say it and their misunderstanding of the GCC aims, goals, and good objectives.

King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz pointed out that the accomplished achievements of the GCC are for the benefit of the Gulf citizen who can, one way or another, feel the positive points of this cooperation in many aspects of his life.

He added: This makes the citizen seek to preserve these great gains, an attitude which indicates an increased understanding of the importance of cooperation in order to march forward in an international community which seeks to form groups to promote their interests.

The custodian of the two holy mosques stressed that since the days of King 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi policy has been clear, frank, and unambiguious. He added, may God protect him: We deal with the constants and variables in accordance with logical and rational bases, as our main goal is first to please Almighty God and then to achieve the common good. Therefore, it has not been strange to have the support of all peace-loving countries. King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz pointed to the need to complete the legal side of the GCC security agreement.

He added, may God protect him: The agreement's practical character is taking shape through continued and concerted coordination and consultation between the GCC member states out of a desire to consolidate the region's security.

Regarding the Iraq-Iran war the custodian of the two holy mosques said: "Notwithstanding the gloomy atmosphere prevailing over the region I, as a Muslim, still hope that this gloom will surely, God willing, be dispelled and reason and logic will prevail in the end for the sake of peace. [passage omitted]

King Fahd Opens Summit

NC261928 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1738 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Speech by Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz at the opening session of the eighth GCC summit at the Conference Palace in Riyadh—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. Peace and prayers for the noblest prophet and messenger, our lord Muhammad, God's prayers and peace be with him.

Your majesties, highnesses, and brother guests: It is my pleasure tonight to see their majesties and highnesses arrive in their second home, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. I also express my profound gratitude to His Highness Amir Zayid for his great efforts during our previous session. I also made continuous efforts on that occasion.

This meeting is an extension of various previous meetings. When I welcome my brothers and the audience, it is only natural that I welcome them to their homeland. I only hope that God Almighty will make us successful in doing what pleases Him and that the forthcoming sessions of this conference will be in full harmony with previous sessions.

The world's problems increase every year. It is natural for us to be concerned about any problem in the world. Problems usually extend from one place to another. What primarily concerns us are the various problems that we are now experiencing.

First, in the name of you all, I salute the free Palestinian people on their great uprising, which is being carried out for their rights. This uprising took place after a long period of patience. Undoubtedly, this uprising of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian Arab territories is a prelude to other uprisings. On behalf of you all and on behalf of the Arab people I greet these heroes, wishing them success. At the same time we promise to offer all possible aid at the international level and in any other form which would give them support and help them to advance. They have a cause in their usurped land.

The second issue which I believe to be of some importance is represented by the current problems in the Gulf. These have gone on for several years, perhaps 8 years. I mean the current war between fraternal Iraq and fraternal Iran, two neighboring Muslim countries. Undoubtedly, it is generally known that your esteemed Council broached this subject in all previous sessions. It was hoped that this fierce war, which is devastating everything, will end. Great efforts have been made to end this war. It will definitely end, but it is hoped that it will do so as soon as possible.

Several international organizations, Islamic and Gulf missions, and the UN secretary general have all made repeated efforts to end the ferocious and devastating war. The continuation of this war is disastrous for everyone, for the two warring states and possibly for Gulf states and Arab and Islamic countries. I hope that God Almighty will enable us to find the most appropriate way to end the war as early as possible.

The most recent attempt in this connection was that made by the members of the UN Security Council. The UN Security Council passed a resolution on the subject and may issue further resolutions. The thrust of all the resolutions is that the war must end. I can safely say that Iraq wants the war to end. Unfortunately, Iran has been setting conditions. It would be better if there were no conditions made while the war continues. I do not think that any country would accede to conditions made by the other party, particularly if these conditions, which are set while the war still continues, are lacking in logic and reason.

The war has not been confined to the two belligerent nations. It has spilled over to other Gulf nations and it is feared that it could expand further. This would be a very serious matter.

A solution could be found now, but in a year's time force might be the only way. I believe, and I think that everyone else would agree, that force is not the best recourse.

I have a lot to say with regard to certain Iranian remarks about Saudi Arabia. Iran fails to present both sides of the picture when it makes statements about Saudi Arabia or Saudi actions. Still, I would rather not go into that. I will leave this topic to my brothers to deal with later.

What interests me is that there is a solid determination to end the existing problem in the Gulf, a problem that is affecting life in the region and may lead to complications which would be hard to solve by peaceful means. An escalation in the Gulf fighting will not be in the interests of either of the warring parties. I am still hoping that reason will prevail and that the current problems will consequently disappear.

The First and Second World Wars began with limited conflicts. The initial hostilities then spread and engulfed most of the globe before the fighting eventually came to an end.

Why does Iran not listen to reason and finish this problem which must come to an end? There is still hope. I hope that Iran will listen to logic, reason, and wisdom. I do not believe that force is the solution. Neither the size of a state's population nor its strength is the criterion. Every country that finds itself compelled to defend itself may seek the help of other countries. It has the right to do so. But I do not want matters to go as far as this. Everyone must surely desire to see the war end through peaceful means, because end it must.

The third point is that we all regret the internal problems that now exist in Lebanon. We hope that the Lebanese people themselves, known for their resources and wisdom, will put an end to thse problems and not wait for them to be solved from outside. Any loss that befalls Lebanon befalls the entire Arab nation, because Lebanon is part of this nation. I hope that these wars and problems will be over by the time our Gulf countries hold their next summit, God willing.

I do not want to say anything more to my brothers, except that the people and Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia welcome their dear brothers who are honoring the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with their presence in their second homeland. Finally, I thank my brothers and wish all of you success. Thank you. [applause]

King Fahd Makes Statement

LD271247 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1120 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 27 Dec (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, chairman of the GCC Supreme Council, has made the following statement on the occasion of the start of the proceedings of the eighth GCC summit.

The GCC Supreme Council convenes today while proudly recording and witnessing the uprising of its brethren in occupied Arab Palestine as well as their courageous resistance to the Israeli terrorism prompted by their belief in Almighty God and the victory He promised his good people. [passage omitted]

The custodian of the two holy mosques and the chairman of the GCC Supreme Council added that our peoples are living through one of their most crucial stages. They are facing circumstances which make their need for peace, security, and stability paramount, a matter which is vital and important for us all so as to continue, God willing, the march of development and consolidation in which we have made an unparalled progress, a matter which requires a serious and wise stance on our part in order to face up to the conditions and dangers in accordance with the spirit of our responsibility toward our peoples, homelands, and our nation's future generations.

Concerning the situation in the Gulf region, the custodian of the two holy mosques and chairman of the GCC Supreme Council stated that we have been and we are still confronting the threat of Zionist settlement and expansion. Today we are facing another threat coming from our brothers in faith, who are directing their spears toward our hearts instead of helping us liberate holy Jerusalem and Arab and Islamic territories in Palestine from the Zionist colonialism, for no other reason than the desire for expansion, control, and export of ideas which are alien to our Arab and Islamic society.

The GCC and all other countries have deployed all their efforts to limit the dangers of this destructive war which is being waged between the two neighboring Islamic states, Iraq and Iran, and to attempt to contain it. However, these endeavors did not achieve the desired results because of the refusal by the Iranian regime of all mediation and Arab and Islamic good-office attempts. Recently, the war in the Arabian Gulf region has escalated, and the threats against neighboring states have continued. These threats have reached the sisterly State of Kuwait.

The GCC has fully supported all international efforts to restore peace in this region. Sisterly Iraq has responded to these efforts; it has called on the GCC and it is still calling on Iran to respond to the will of the international community by restoring peace, by accepting the implementation of Resolution 598 which calls for an end to the war and for withdrawal to the international borders between both countries, for a halt to the bloodshed between the sons of the two neighboring Muslim countries and a halt to the squandering of their capabilities so that they can be directed against the enemies of our nation, on the one hand, and achieve our needs in the development field, on the other hand.

The custodian of the two holy mosques and chairman of the GCC Supreme Council added that despite the efforts of the GCC to quell this sedition and avoid being dragged into it, these states are always aware of their responsibilities toward safeguarding their security and independence and protecting their sanctities. At the same time, the aims of the Council are clear and its intentions are honest as is its desire for an end to the war and for the restoration of peace, which, if achieved, will undoubtedly lead to the establishment of good relations with Iran based on good-neighborliness, mutual respect, and a return to the historic relations which are founded on true Islamic values of Islamic solidarity and brotherhood.

With regard to Afghanistan, King Fahd said that the Afghan Muslim people are still struggling with all their power and sacrificing the blood of their sons to defend their religion, homeland, and sovereignty and are enduring all hardships in resisting occupation and demanding its evacuation from their land and the establishment of the regime they desire.

He said that while affirming its full support for the Afghan mujahidin in their just struggle, the GCC hopes that the USSR will respond to the world call to withdraw from Afghanistan so that Afghanistan will once more become a free independent country as it was throughout history. While supporting the UN good offices for reaching an acceptable solution that would guarantee the return of the Afghan refugees to their homes, preventing interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, and safeguarding Afghanistan's Islamic identity and nonaligned status, the GCC hopes that should such a solution will be reached, and that relations between the two neighboring countries—the USSR and Afghanistan—will develop into relations of good-neighborliness and mutual respect.

The custodian of the two holy mosques and president of the GCC Supreme Council, King Fahd, affirmed that despite all the matters preoccupying the GCC member countries, they should not allow these preoccupations to prevent them from continuing their work for the realization of the objectives of our people for further prosperity and welfare. [passage omitted]

King Fahd said that thanks be to God, the GCC member countries have gone a long way toward coordinating their political affairs and building their defense forces to act as a strong shield safeguarding the great economic achievements attained thanks to the pooling of their efforts and their sincerity in work. He added that the GCC member countries continue to look forward to further achievements in all fields so that our society will become one of good, blessing, and prosperity, God willing.

Concluding, King Fahd praised the GCC which has become a unique model in the contemporary international community, thanks to the wise leadership of their majesties and highnesses, the leaders of the GCC member countries.

Secretary General Delivers Report

LD262211 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2015 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] Riyadh, 26 Dec (SPA)—Leaders of the GCC states have ended their first working session at 2200 this evening. During this session which lasted about 45 minutes, the leaders listened to a political, economic, and social report delivered by the secretary general of the Council on the achievements of the Council in those fields during the last session.

The GCC leaders are expected to resume the sessions of their conference tomorrow morning, God willing. The secretary general of the GCC states 'Abdallah Bisharah explained that the report which was read out to the leaders at this session was about the work that has been achieved since the Abu Dhabi summit conference.

In a statement to SPA Bisharah said that the report included a review of the future plan of the Council. He added that the report also included the joint projects whose number ranges between 40 and 50, which are being studied. They are the projects that had been recommended by the leaders at the Kuwait summit.

Bisharah also said that the report included questions of economic cooperation and the problems they have encountered, as well as what has been achieved and how to safeguard it. He noted that the report included a comprehensive political, social, and economic review.

Bahraini, Qatari Amirs Meet

JN280751 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Excerpts] The eighth GCC summit meetings are continuing in Riyadh today. The leaders of the six GCC member states—Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, and Oman—are attending. The Iraq-Iran war and the situation in the Gulf area in general are, of course, the focus of summit discussions. [passage omitted]

In addition to the Gulf conflict, the GCC leaders discussed internal security in light of the plan prepared by the interior ministers. The plan aims to strengthen coordination among the security services of the six GCC member states. Sources close to the Kuwaiti delegation said the discussions centered on Kuwaiti reservations on some clauses in the plan, which may conflict with the Kuwaiti Constitution and law.

The conferees also discussed projects that aim to bring about coordination and integration in economic and industrial fields.

The amirs of Qatar and Bahrain, Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani and Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, met during the summit. According to informed sources in Riyadh, the discussion during the meeting was confined to the difference between Bahrain and Qatar over the ownership of the island of Fasht al-Dibal in the Gulf. The Bahraini and Qatari sides agreed to a Saudi proposal to refer the issue to the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

Iranian Gunboats Attack Saudi Oil Tanker

JN260731 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0700 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] Maritime sources in Dubayy have said that a Saudi oil tanker was subjected to an aggression by Iranian gunboats opposite the UAE coast, south of the Arabian Gulf, last night. The sources said that the 9,566-tonne tanker, which is called "Najmat al-Petrol" [Star of Petroleum], was set on fire. No victims or casualties have been reported.

Lloyds Cited on Attack on S. Korean Ship
JN251632 Baghdad INA in English 1610 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] London, Dec 25, INA—A South Korean cargo ship was the victim of Iranian piracy in the international waters of the Arab Gulf today.

According to Lloyds Intelligence Service, the vessel "Huyndai-2" [name as received] was attacked and set ablaze by Iranian gunboats some 25 miles north of Sharjah Emirate. No detalis were given on the whereabouts of its crew.

Bahrain

Amir, Delegation Leave for Riyadh Summit
JN261124 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1055 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] Manama, 26 Dec (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh ‘Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrian, left here for Riyadh today at the head of his country's delegation to the eighth GCC summit, scheduled to begin there this evening and last 4 days. His highness is accompanied by a delegation comprising Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, foreign minister; Shaykh Muhammad Ahmad al-‘Ulawi, adviser to the prime minister for financial affairs; Dr Husayn Muhammad al-Baharnah, minister of state for legal affairs; Tariq ‘Abd al-Rahman al-Mu‘ayyid, information minister; Ibrahim ‘Abd al-Karim, finance and national economy minister; and a number of officials.

His Highness Shaykh ‘Isa was seen off by His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn ‘Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and acting prime minister; the ministers; and senior officials.

His highness the amir issued a decree, entrusting His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn ‘Isa Al Khalifah with the tasks of the ruler while the amir is abroad.

Egypt's Mubarak, Tunisia's Baccouche To Visit
JN270952 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0756 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Manama, 27 Dec (WAKH)—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will pay an official visit to the State of Bahrain in the middle of January within the framework of a Gulf tour that will also take him to Kuwait and Qatar.

Gulf sources have told WAKH that the Egyptian president will hold talks during the visit with His Highness Shaykh ‘Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, on bilateral relations, developments in the Iraq-Iran war, developments in the situation on the Arabian Gulf region, the Middle East conflict, and issues of common interest to both states.

WAKH also learned from these sources that Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche will also visit the Gulf states in January. During his tour, he will meet with the leaders of the Gulf states he visits to discuss bilateral relations, the current Arab situation, developments in the situation in the Arabian Gulf region, and the contacts currently under way in the Arab Maghreb arena to enhance cooperation among the area's states.

Oman

Iraqi Envoy Conveys Message to Sultan Qabus
JN241348 Baghdad INA in English 1023 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] Muscat, Dec. 24, INA—The personal envoy of President Saddam Husayn yesterday evening conveyed a message from President Husayn to Sultan Qabus ibn Sa‘id of Oman.

The envoy, Mr Sa‘dun Shakir, member of the Revolution Command Council (RCC), conveyed the message in the presence of Omani information minister, Mr ‘Abd al-‘Aziz al-Rawwas, and Iraq's ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman.

The Iraqi envoy had arrived here yesterday after touring Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

Sultan, Delegation Leave for GCC Summit
JN261325 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Excerpts] His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa‘id left the country, in God's care and protection, for the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to participate with his brother GCC leaders in the eighth GCC summit, which will open in Riyadh later today. [passage omitted]

The official delegation accompanying his majesty the sultan includes His Highness Fahd ibn Mahmud Al Bu Sa‘id, deputy prime minister for legal affairs; His Excellency Qays ibn ‘Abd al-Mum‘im al-Zawawi, deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs; His Excellency Sayf ibn Hamad ibn Sa‘ud, chief of the sultani court; His Excellency Major General ‘Ali ibn Majid al-Ma‘mari, director of the palace office; His Excellency Muhammad ibn al-Zubayr, his majesty the sultan's adviser for economic planning affairs; His Excellency al-Mu‘tasim ibn Humud, minister of state for defense affairs; His Excellency Yusuf ibn ‘Alawi ibn ‘Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs; His Excellency Salim ibn ‘Abdallah al-Ghazali, industry and commerce minister; His Excellency Muhammad ibn ‘Ali ibn Nasir al-‘Alawi, secretary general of the legislation commission; His Excellency Ibrahim ibn Humud, secretary general of the higher committee for conference; His Highness Haytham ibn Tariq ibn Taymur, Foreign Ministry under secretary for political affairs; and His Excellency Ambassador Ahmad ibn Yusuf al-Harithi, head of the Arab Department at the Foreign Minstry.

PDRY

People's Presidium Endorses Death Sentences

JN271813 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Aden, 27 Dec (WAKH)—The PDRY Supreme People's Presidium today decided to endorse death sentences against former PDRY President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and 11 others. This decision was made during the Presidium's meeting under PDRY President Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas here today.

Qatar

Amir, Delegation Leave for Riyadh Summit

JN261134 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1105 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] Doha, 26 Dec (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, the amir of Qatar, left Doha for Saudi Arabia this afternoon at the head of his country's delegation to the eighth GCC summit to begin later this evening in Riyadh. His highness was seen off by the heir apparent, His Highensss Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, and senior civilian and military officials. His highness is accompanied by the ministers of interior, finance, oil, and state for foriegn affairs; the amir's adviser; the information minister; the Foreign Minsitry under secretary; and the Qatari ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia

Syrian Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit

LD261742 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1715 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] Riyadh, 26 Dec (SPA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Riyadh this evening on a visit to the Kingdom. He was welcomed at King Khalid International Airport by Muhammad Ibrahim Ma'sud, minister of state and member of the Council of Ministers, and Muhammad al-Tall, Syrian ambassador to the Kingdom.

Received by King Fahd

JN270723 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Riyadh—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, monarch of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, received Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in Riyadh yesterday evening in the presence of Crown Prince 'Abdallah, Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, and Minister of State Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud. Faruq al-Shar' conveyed a message from His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad to King Fahd on the situation in the region and some issues of interest to both fraternal states.

Conveys Al-Asad Message

LD271000 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2115 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] Riyadh, 26 Dec (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, has received a verbal message from His Excellency Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

The message was delivered by His Excellency Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' during an audience this evening at the royal office at Al-Yamamah Palace.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard; His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister; and His Excellency Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state and member of the Council of Ministers.

Departs Riyadh

LD271003 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0707 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Riyadh, 27 Dec (SPA)—His Excellency the Syrian minister, Faruq al-Shar', left Riyadh this morning following a visit to the Kingdom during which he met with the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, and conveyed to him, may God protect him, a message from his excellency the president of the Syrian Arab Republic, Hafiz al-Asad. He was seen off at Khalid International Airport by Dr Muhammad al-Mulham, minister of state and member of the Council of Ministers, by Syrian Ambassador Muhammad al-Tall, and by a number of officials.

United Arab Emirates

President Leaves for GCC Riyadh Summit

JN261107 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Excerpt] His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan, the head of state, left the country for Riyadh at noon today for the eight GCC summit, set to begin in the Saudi capital this evening. [passage omitted]

Saddam Husayn Chairs Cabinet Meeting 28 Dec

JN281244 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn chaired a Cabinet meeting today. Topics on the agenda were discussed during the meeting and the necessary decisions and measures were adopted. The meeting was attended by 'Izzat Ibrahim, RCC vice chairman; Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, vice president; RCC members; members of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command; chief of the presidential office; ministers; and government officials.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Operations

Liberian Tanker Attacked

JN241520 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1458 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] London, 24 Dec (INA)—The British Lloyds Insurance Company has announced that the Liberian oil tanker "Eastern Power" [name as received] was subjected to an attack by Iranian gunboats this morning while steaming in an area 12 miles from Abu Musa Island in the Arabian Gulf. In a cable to the INA office in London today, Lloyds said the tanker, which was previously called "World Longfeety" [name as received], left the Saudi port of Ra's Tannurah on Monday en route to Indonesia. Lloyds added it is not certain whether the tanker, which was loaded with oil, was hit in the Iranian attack.

The 123,922-tonne tanker "Eastern Power" is managed by the Worldwide Navigation Agency headquartered in Hong Kong and was built in 1976.

Communique No 2,962

JN241713 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Communique No 2,962 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 24 December]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted on the Great Day and Great Harvest battles] The following is a roundup of our units' activities for last night and today:

1. In the I Army Corps northern sector, five enemy infantry positions and one tank emplacement were destroyed and two armored personnel carriers were damaged.

2. In the II Army Corps central sector, one observation post was destroyed and its occupants were killed.

3. One of our units in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah attacked an enemy group and killed and wounded a number of its personnel.

4. Our valiant units in the VII Army Corps sector destroyed one enemy tank, killed one scoundrel, and destroyed two infantry positions and one observation post.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 24 December 1987

Communique No 2,963

JN251045 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1011 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Communique No 2,963 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 25 December]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted outlining the Iraqi Air Force's feats in 1987] Our giant Air Force today dealt a fierce blow to those who insist on the course of war and aggression. Large numbers of our aircraft simultaneously carried out a series of surprise, devastating attacks on enemy military targets at 1100 [0800 GMT] today.

Our aircraft pounded the enemy's camps, troop concentrations, equipment, and military hardware in the Dezful and Shushtar areas in the southern sector of operations. Our brave hawks inflicted momentous losses on enemy ranks and military hardware. Our hawks also destroyed an antiaircraft Hawk missile battery.

After completing all these heroic missions, all our aircraft safely returned to their bases in the homeland under God's protection. May God bless the valiant men of our heroic Air Force— commanders, hawks, officers and other ranks. Proceed forward to score further victories. God will support us on our course toward great victory. God is the best supporter and guide.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 25 December 1987

Communique No 2,964

JN251729 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Communique No 2,964 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 25 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces are imposing their full control on all operation sectors. They inflicted new losses on our country's enemies, the Khomeyniites, in combat operations last night and today as follows:

1. The number of our Air Force combat missions to carry out their duties as referred to in Communique No 2,963 today and to carry out other missions in other sector reached 77. Through these missions, our hawks inflicted important losses on enemy personnel, weapons, and equipment, then returned with their planes safely to base. Praise be to God.

2. Five enemy personnel were killed, six others were wounded, two infantry positions were destroyed, and a vehicle was burned and another was damaged in the I Army Corps northern sector.

3. Our units in the II Army Corps central sector inflicted the following losses on the aggressors: the killing of three scoundrels, the destruction of two observation posts, the damaging of a vehicle, and the blowing up of two ammunition dumps.

4. A tank, a machine gun, and a 60-mm mortar were destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

5. Two machine guns and an 82-mm mortar were destroyed in the IV Army corps sector east of Maysan.

6. Three infantry positions and two machine guns were destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces Geenral Command, 25 December 1987

5 Iranians Killed

JN261518 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1508 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Dec (INA)—During their combat activities on the battlefronts today, the Iraqi forces inflicted new losses on the Iranian forces' personnel, equipment, and weapons. A military spokesman told INA that Iraqi formations killed five Iranian soldiers, wounded three, and destroyed five machinegun emplacements and five infantry positions. They also burned and destroyed two ammunition dumps and one vehicle, damaged two vehicles, and destroyed one antitank gun emplacement.

Communique No 2,965

JN261725 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Communique No 2,965 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 26 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With superiority and capability, our victorious forces are continuing their courageous activities. They are inflicting more losses on our country's enemies. The results of their activities for last night and today were as follows:

1. One vehicle was destroyed and two vehicles were damaged in the I Army Corps northern sector.

2. One machinegun emplacement and one antitank gun emplacement were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

3. Two scoundrels were killed, three others wounded, and one machinge gun emplacement was destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

4. Two enemy personnel were killed and three infantry positions and two machine gun emplacements were destroyed in IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

5. One enemy soldier was killed, two ammunition dumps were blown up, and two machine gun emplacements and one medium machinegun were destroyed on the VII Army Corps front.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 26 December 1987

'Large Maritime Target' Hit

JN262035 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2023 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 26 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our Air Force dealt an accurate and effective blow to a large maritime target near the Iranian coast at 2100 [1800 GMT] today. They did so to prevent the reckless Iranian regime from using its oil supplies to commit aggression against our country. After carrying out their mission, our planes returned safely to the homeland. God be praised.

[Dated] 26 December 1987

11 Iranians Killed

JN271447 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Dec (INA)—An Iraqi military spokesman has said that in the past 24 hours, 11 Iranian soldiers were killed, 5 infantry positions and 2 observation posts were destroyed, and 1 tubular launcher was burned and destroyed in the operation sectors. Also one shovel [preceding word in English], one vehicle, and one single-barreled machine gun were destroyed and one ammunition dump was blown up in the operation sectors.

The military spokesman added that eight enemy boats tried to approach Al-'Amiq Port in the northern part of the Arabian Gulf yesterday, but the port's force confronted them and forced them to flee.

Communique No 2,966

JN271724 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Communique No 2,966 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on December]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious Armed Forces are continuing to deal blows to the scoundrel Khomeyniites, inflicting new losses every day. The following is a roundup of our units' activities for last night and today:

1. Two enemy soldiers were killed and two observation posts were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

2. One infantry position was destroyed and its occupants were killed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

3. One enemy soldier was killed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

4. Enemy engineering efforts were attacked and put out of action in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

5. Our units on the VII Army Corps front attacked enemy units opposite them and achieved the following: killing three scoundrels; burning and destroying one tubular launcher and one vehicle; destroying one single-barreled machine gun; destroying one shovel [preceding word in English]; destroying four infantry positions; and blowing up one ammunition dump.

6. Eight enemy boats tried to approach Al-'Amiq Port yesterday, but the port's brave force confronted them and forced them to flee.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 27 December 1987

Isolated Incidents in Territories; Calm Prevails

Curfew in Balatah 25 Dec

TA251122 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] This morning there was calm in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that in Gaza the security forces are prepared for the end of prayers in the mosques. The security forces have imposed a curfew on the Balatah refugee camp near Nabulus after crowds gathered there. The defense minister and the head of the Civilian Administration in Judaea and Samaria have ordered 800 schools in the area to reopen next Sunday.

Curfew in 'Askar 25 Dec

TA251914 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Rioters in the 'Askar refugee camp near Nabulus tried to set the local police station on fire this afternoon. The security forces dispersed the rioters with tear gas and detained a masked suspect. A curfew was then imposed on the refugee camp. Our correspondent Moti Amir adds that this morning the security forces dispersed rioters in the Balatah refugee camp, which was also placed under curfew.

DFLP Activist Detained

TA251934 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] This evening the security forces detained Raja' Mahmud Akbariyah, the leader of the Sons of the Village Movement, from the village of Umm al-Fahm, for hostile subversive activity and harming state security.

Security sources said this evening that Akbariyah is an extremist nationalist who heads the Sons of the Village Movement, which calls for the annihilation of the State of Israel.

The detainee is a teacher and is identified with the DFLP terrorist organization.

Security sources said that the detainee was a major instigator in the disturbances in Umm al-Fahm, staged during the general strike held by the Arabs of Israel.

Balatah Curfew Lifted 26 Dec

TA261346 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] It is quiet today in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. In the 'Askar refugee camp near Nabulus the curfew imposed after yesterday's disturbances continues. The curfew was lifted in the Balatah refugee camp.

Israeli Stabbed in Jerusalem

TA280734 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Arye Klein of Qiryat Arba' was stabbed near Damascus Gate in Jerusalem. He suffered slight head injuries. Klein came to Jerusalem from Qiryat Arba' in an Arab taxi. After getting out of the taxi he was attacked by an unidentified person who tried to stab him in the head. Klein fired several shots in the air from a pistol he is licensed to hold. He received superficial scratches at the back of his head and was treated by Magen David Adom medics.

He is currently giving testimony to the police. A police unit arrived at the scene and detained several suspects, including the taxi driver, on the basis of the description given by Klein.

Deputy Commander Yosef Yehuday, commander of the Jerusalem Police District, told our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum that the investigation is still in the initial stages. The attack apparently resulted from nationalistic motives.

Jabalyah Camp Reopened

TA281129 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] The blockade on the Jabalyah camp in the Gaza Strip, which had been in effect for several days, has been lifted.

A sit-down strike is now being staged at the Red Cross offices in Jerusalem by about 50 men and women from East Jerusalem and Ramallah. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the demonstrators are protesting against the detention of their sons following the last wave of riots, as well as against Minister Sharon's residence in the Muslim Quarter of the Old City. A police force is present in the area, but order is being maintained.

IDF Prepares Prison Facilities in Territories

TA240537 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 24 Dec 87

[text] The situation in the administered territories is quiet. The security forces have arrested hundreds of young men and say they have been identified as having participated in the riots. Palestinian sources say the detainees number more than 300. The IDF spokesman has not yet given a figure, but the Army has opened a new prison facility near Al-Zahiriyah in the Hebron hills, and has expanded the jail known as Ansar-2 in the Gaza Strip.

Conflicting Reports on Number of Detainees

150-600 Arrests Reported

TA250536 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Suspected organizers of the recent wave of unrest in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza are being prosecuted in military courts. Military sources say first offenders are generally being sentenced from 3 to 8 months in prison and are fined up to 1,500 shekels. Repeat offenders are being sentenced to a minimum of 2 years in prison.

Reporter Steve Rodan says the Israeli Army spokesman has refused to release the number of arrests made in this week's sweep by military authorities. Yesterday Major General 'Amram Mitzna', head of Army Central Command, said several hundred people were arrested. Other military sources have put the number of arrests between 150 and 600. Palestinian estimates are at least double the highest being given by military sources. The military sources said most of those arrested range in age from 17 to 30, but there are detainees as young as 14.

Sources Confirm 650 Arrests

TA251133 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Military sources have confirmed the arrest of 650 people suspected of organizing or participating in the recent unrest in the territories. They include 400 from Judaea and Samaria, 250 from the Gaza Strip. Gaza was reported quiet this morning, but Army reinforcements have been sent in to ensure order as Muslims have been arriving at mosques for Friday prayers. [passage omitted]

800 Reported Detained

TA251820 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] The security forces have detained approximately 800 people since the beginning of the riots in the territories and in Gaza. They are being held in detention centers in the territories and in 'Atlit. Most of them were rounded up as part of an intensive, special effort made by the security forces over the last few days.

Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that the Military Judge Advocate's Office is getting ready to press charges within the next few days. Several dozen suspects have already been tried and given prison terms of between 1 and 12 months. The detainees were brought to the detention installations on instruction from the military commander in the territories.

1,038 Reported Detained

TA271616 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Some 1,038 persons were detained and are still under arrest following the riots of the last 2 weeks. They are being held in the Al-Fari'ah, Tulkarm, and Al-Zahiriyah jails and in the 'Atlit military prison.

This was reported today by a military source who added that about 400 of the detainees had been arrested prior to the latest outbreak of disturbances. Those detainees who will be prosecuted will face summary trials which will be held in Hebron, Tulkarm, and Ramallah in addition to Nabulus. The military source stressed that the rights of detainees will be observed in full and that military prosecutors will not demand stiffer sentences than customary in the past. Our correspondent Shlomi Stein notes that most of the detainees are aged 17 to 27.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 27 December reports that "over 600 suspects have been arrested in Judaea and Samaria and 190 in the Gaza Strip following the riots and provocations in the last wave of unrest." It adds: "Instructions have been issued to military prosecutors to demand stiffer sentences than usual for those who took part in the last wave of violence."]

Military Summary Trials for Suspected Rioters

TA241940 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] The military courts have launched a summary trial campaign for the suspects detained by the security forces last night and the day before. Major General 'Amram Mitzna', the commander of the Central Command, confirmed this evening that several hundred have been detained in a wide-scale operation.

[Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 24 December reports that "the Jerusalem Police have detained several people, some of whom have already admitted their involvement in incidents during the demonstrations held in Jerusalem over the last few days," and that "the commander of the Jerusalem District Police, Deputy Commander Yosef Yehuda'i, told our correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov this evening that so far 64 suspects have been rounded up, and most will face charges."]

Military Courts Begin Trials

TA271708 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Dozens of suspected rioters and agitators were brought to trial in military courts in the territories today. Most of them denied the charges and were remanded in prison for another 18 days.

A youth from Al-Birah who admitted to having thrown stones was sentenced to 8 months imprisonment by the Nabulus military court. The judge said he had given him a light sentence because he had not caused any damage or casualties. [passage omitted]

Eight hundred schools reopened in Judaea and Samaria this morning, whereas in the Gaza Strip schools remained closed.

Gaza Lawyers Boycott Courts

TA271227 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Lawyers in the Gaza Strip are boycotting Israeli military courts today. Reporter Steve Rodan says the lawyers are refusing to represent Palestinians detained during the latest wave of arrests. The lawyers say the courts are not allowing evidence for the defense to be introduced and are processing the cases extremely quickly.

Lawyers representing the detainees in Judaea and Samaria say they are preparing to go on strike as well. The attorneys say they have not been allowed to see their clients and have not been given notice of when and where their clients will be tried. They say the hearings are expected to begin this week. The lawyers held a news conference in East Jerusalem this morning.

Mass Deportation Rumors Denied

TA272025 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 27 Dec 87 p 2

[Report by Oren Kohen]

[Excerpts] "Reports claiming that hundreds of people from the territories are facing deportation are not true. Any decision concerning the deportation of a person from the territories must be well founded and has to withstand the test of the High Court of Justice," a senior security source told HADASHOT yesterday. The same source stressed that although several lists exist of persons to be deported, the compilation of lists has not yet been completed.

The senior source added that "as far as the defense establishment's wishes are concerned, we probably would like to expel hundreds of people. But realistically, we know that we are only talking about the deportation of several dozen, and even that will not happen very soon." The security source said further that the compilation of the list depends on arduous staff work of gathering information and evidence against the people to be deported. According to the source, the political level is not involved in the process at present. [passage omitted]

Residents of refugee camps in the West Bank told a HADASHOT reporter yesterday that most of those detained in recent days took part in the disturbances, yet the majority of those who had not participated in the riots, and who were in fact among the chief organizers of the riots, were not arrested at all. In reaction, a senior security source said that the identity of these persons is known and that they would be arrested at a later date.

The detainees' attorneys have complained that despite the fact that several days have elapsed since the arrests they have had difficulties in locating their clients, and because the detention facilities are overcrowded, there are still no visiting arrangements. [Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 27 December in a report on page 1 adds: "Severe complaints regarding the conditions of detention of about 800 people arrested during the riots in the territories, were voiced yesterday by Arab sources in the West Bank and in East Jerusalem. They claim that the detainees are kept in overcrowded quarters, some of them in tents, and rumors have spread in the Arab community that several detainees have became ill as a result of these conditions."]

Knesset Members [MK] Muhammad Mi'ari and Mati Peled of the Progressive List for Peace [PLP] have submitted a no-confidence motion over the plan to carry out mass deportations of Palestinian detainees. The PLP MK's say that these deportations are the beginning of an extensive transfer process. This is a crime by international standards, said Mi'ari and Peled, and a government which commits this crime loses its legitimacy. [passage omitted]

70 Israeli Arabs Detained for 21 Dec Rioting

TA261849 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] The number of detainees from the Arab sector in the north has reached 70. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar has learned that more than two-thirds of the people suspected of participating in last Monday's disturbances come from the areas of Nazareth and Shefar'am, and the rest come from the Triangle. Fifty of the detainees have already been brought to court, where they were issued detention orders of up to 15 days. The remaining suspects will be brought before a judge beginning tomorrow.

Rioters Termed 'Delinquents'

TA271712 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] In a report delivered at today's Cabinet session, Israel Police Commissioner David Kraus said that most of the agitators in the riots in Yafo on the day of the strike in the Arab sector were delinquents seeking to settle accounts with the police. The police affairs minister said that violent disturbances occurred only in 6 of the 81 towns in which Arabs reside. In some 30 towns there were local disturbances, while in the rest the inhabitants staged a strike but did not stir up any unrest.

Government Severs Contacts With Arab Councils

*TA231504 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1400 GMT 23 Dec 87*

[Text] Deputy Minister Roni Milo has announced that following the events in the Arab sector, the committee of Arab local councils will be banned from both official and unofficial contacts with all government ministry offices.

Milo, who is the official in charge of Arab Affairs in the Prime Minister's Office, said that henceforth each local council will have to take care of its own affairs. He added that despite the fact that the committee of Arab local councils had so far enjoyed unofficial recognition, any such recognition is henceforth null and void.

Commenting on this move, Ibrahim Nimr Husayn, the committee chairman, said that the government had never recognized the committee and that the committee does not need its recognition. Speaking with our correspondent Yo'el Dar, he remarked that the committee of Arab local councils derives its power from the Arab voters and the Arab local government administration, and not from the [Israeli] government. He added that the committee does not recognize the office of Deputy Minister Roni Milo.

'Peace Now' Protests Against Territories Policy

*TA261924 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 26 Dec 87*

[Text] Tear gas was used to disperse a Peace Now demonstration near the prime minister's residence today. The demonstration was held in protest of the government's policy in the territories. The commander of the Jerusalem police has told our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum that the police and border policemen were forced to disperse the demonstration because it violated the terms of the license given to Peace Now for the demonstration.

The demonstration began with a rally in Menora Square and continue in a march along King George Street, with the demonstrators bearing torches. KAKH members, Herut young guard members, and members of the Gil'ad Likud and Tehiya student body stood along the route of the demonstration, calling out against the Peace Now members.

AL-QUDS on Distribution Ban in Gaza, W. Bank

*TA231652 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
23 Dec 87 p 1*

[Editorial: "The Arab Press"]

[Text] Incidents and the death of innocent civilians in the occupied Arab territories continued for the 14th consecutive day amid a campaign led by a number of Israeli officials aimed at seeking justifications and interpretations for the tragic events. Yesterday a military order was issued banning the distribution of AL-QUDS in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip for 1 month.

The attempt to address the events in the occupied Arab territories by blaming and punishing the press will not lead to finding a remedy to the problems. The press neither created the occupation nor the events. All it does is try to publish what the military censor allows about the events. Anyone who is making decisions based on the idea of influencing local and world public opinion should not adopt steps that tend to arouse emotions and produce negative reactions.

The explanation given in justifying the decision to ban distribution of AL-QUDS in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is the publication by the newspaper of a picture of a demonstration in the Gaza Strip. This is the same picture distributed by REUTER and which was published by the Israeli newspaper YEDI'OT AHARONOT on the 5th page of yesterday's issue. The picture also appeared on Israeli television's newsreel.

We have stated time and again that one cannot address the events in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip by hiding behind justifications that have no relation whatsoever with reality. One should act seriously and effectively to create the will for achieving a peace based on justice and ensuring the Palestinian people's exercise of their national rights and enjoyment of their human rights.

Any sort of occupation cannot change into a just and liberal occupation by the stroke of a pen or a press statement. Occupation means subjugating the will of a people in contravention and violation of the principles of the modern international system.

AL-QUDS will return to the towns, villages, and camps of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. When it returns, it will be more confident of the need to achieve peace, security, and stability for all the region's peoples, foremost of all the Palestinian people who look forward to the day that heralds the glad tidings of peace and prosperity.

Officer Suspended for Violating Firing Orders

*TA270753 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0700 GMT 27 Dec 87*

[Text] 'Amram Mitzna', the commander of the Central Command, has suspended an officer who did not strictly follow instructions on opening fire. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that at the same time the military police began to interrogate the officer on suspicion of shooting in a Samaria village. Two people were wounded as a result of the shooting.

IDF on UNRWA Claim of Gaza Food Shortage

TA272112 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] An UNRWA worker says there is a severe food shortage in the Jabalyah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. He told a REUTER correspondent that there is a serious bread shortage in the camp and the IDF prevented him from bringing hot meals for the children and milk for pregnant women and babies.

Reacting to this report, the IDF spokesman told our correspondent Moti Amir that a blockade is in force in the Jabalyah refugee camp and inhabitants are allowed to move freely for a few hours each day. UNRWA workers did not coordinate the delivery of food supplies with the IDF and that is why they arrived in the camp at a time when movement in the camp is not permitted. The workers were asked to wait until the inhabitants are allowed to leave their houses, but they refused to comply and left the place. Our correspondent Moti Amir points out that there are 64,000 inhabitants in Jabalyah.

IDF, Leaders Comment on Territories, Policy

Commander on Detentions

TA251718 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, the commander of the Southern Command, says that the IDF has detained all those that should be rounded up for questioning. He said this happened only after intensive intelligence activity was carried out. Speaking to our correspondent Moti Amir, Gen Mordekhay praised his subordinates for their handling of the riots in the territories. He added that judging by the last few days, it appears that the disturbances are subsiding.

Peres, Rabin on Solution

TA241634 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] A political solution is the answer to the problem of the territories. This is the message presented today by Ministers Peres and Rabin at a meeting of the Labor Party's Central Committee. Here is our correspondent Natan Gutman in Mitchell Hall in Jerusalem.

[Begin recording] [Gutman] The Labor Party's Central Committee was convened today to discuss the proposed state budget, but in view of the events in the territories, the members demanded a report on the situation. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres reiterated the well-known principle that the fire in the territories must first of all be extinguished.

[Peres] The IDF and the security forces are preventing the fire from spreading, and the people must stand behind them. The situation is not like Lebanon or anything else. We did not initiate the situation, nor is it our choice, but it is our duty to prevent the fire which has endangered not only Jewish, but also Arab lives, from spreading.

[Gutman] Nevertheless, the foreign minister reiterated that hope for a political solution should not be abandoned. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin took the floor after Peres to deliver his statement. Rabin also stressed that our first priority must be to prove that nothing can be achieved through terrorism. As long as there is a hope that achievements can be reached through violence, any chance to reach negotiations will be reduced.

[Rabin] Just as we must know how to withstand war threats, to act against terrorist organizations, and operate under difficult conditions in a hostile environment engaged in violent disturbances, we must know how to continue to search for paths and frameworks for peace negotiations with those who want peace and are prepared to reach peace with us.

[Gutman] Before the debate, Minister 'Ezer Weizman also asked for permission to present his opinion on the territories, but he was denied the chance to address the forum. The debate on the state budget is now continuing in the party's Central Committee.

Rabin on Latest Detentions

TA250748 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Dec 87 pp 1, 4

[Report on an interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Hirsh Goodman on 24 December; place not given]

[Text] Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin confirmed today [24 December] that Israel has detained "several hundred" people from the West Bank and Gaza following the unrest in the territories. He denied that any decision has yet been made on deportations, but added that "we have the legal option of doing so and there is no question that this is a means that we could use."

In an interview with THE JERUSALEM POST, Rabin said that the current tough measures in force would continue "until there is stability. I will not predict, however, when this will be.

"My message to the inhabitants of the territories is clear: terror and unrest will get you nothing, just suffering and pain. The only way out of this is at the negotiating table. That no Israeli Government has changed the legal status of the territories is absolute proof of our sincerity," he said.

"Our offers of negotiations have gone unanswered," he continued. "In the meantime we have to maintain law and order and we will do so. These past two weeks have been weeks of violence—of road blocks, stones and Molotov cocktails—and the means we will employ will be in direct proportion to the threat."

Despite a hectic schedule since arriving back in Israel from the U.S., the minister was lively and self-confident. He had been bouyed by an unprecedented flood of congratulatory phone calls that had reached his office from the U.S. that morning, following his Wednesday night appearance on ABC's "Nightline." He was also unapologetic for Israel's behaviour these past two weeks.

"I have just enjoyed reminding the BBC that the laws in force in the territories today are the laws the British left us. The difference is, however, that when they arrested me, I didn't have recourse to a lawyer within 48 hours.

"Our policies have not changed. We will fight terrorism and unrest, and encourage those elements who want peace. We will close schools that have ceased to fulfil their function as educational institutions and which have been consistent in allowing their children out into the streets," he said.

He refused to be specific about how many people have been detained over the past two days, saying only that they number "in the hundreds." He gave no indication of how long the detainees would be held or their age. "We are going after those organizers who have come into the schools, their faces masked, and forced pupils, often against their will, to riot."

Rabin rejected the criticism that has been levelled against him in the U.S. for reportedly disregarding American advice not to institute a hardline policy. "Our decision to increase the level of forces in the territories was out of concern over the number of casualties being caused," he said.

"When we had small forces deployed, they were more prone to react to danger with lethal means, when outnumbered and faced with blatant violence. Because of this, we have increased the number of troops in the territories so as to attain the same goals without causing casualties.

"I express regret over the loss of life, but our warnings went unheeded and the violence continued. Then, rubber bullets and gas were ineffective, leaving us no option but to use the means we did," he said.

Rabin admitted that reports that Israeli snipers had fired at demonstrators were correct. "But here again," he said, "the goal was to minimize casualties." The snipers, who are attached to all units, he said, used small-calibre, .22 rifles for pin-point accuracy "aiming only for the feet."

He denied that most of the casualties had been children. "Is a 23-year-old, or 19-year-old, a child?" he asked. In each case of a death, the Army conducts a routine investigation, he said.

As to why the IDF did not have better non-lethal riot equipment, Rabin admitted that the scope of the riots had taken the Army by surprise. "We have some equipment, but could not cover all points of conflict.

"Anyway," he noted, "even in those places that we had such equipment it did not help."

The riots, in Rabin's assessment, were mainly spontaneous "though they were encouraged by Arab radio stations, the East Jerusalem newspapers and operatives of terrorist organizations."

The Jordanians, he said, have reason not "to be happy" about events, noting that they have invested heavily in trying to gain influence in the territories. "The inhabitants of the territories are Jordanian citizens and Jordan, therefore, has responsibility for them," he said. "Any future peace process must include a joint Jordanian-Palestinian element, and therefore the Jordanians are involved.

"And after all," he concluded, "if they (the Jordanians) had not gone to war in 1967, none of this would have happened."

Rabin Rejects Withdrawal

TA261351 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says that a unilateral withdrawal from the territories is a formula for continued terrorism. Whoever makes such a proposal is suggesting total defeat for Israel.

Our correspondent Yafa Glick reports that Mr Rabin addressed the Labor Party's Forum for Social Discussions at Bet Berl. He pointed out that yielding to violence and disturbances only encourages their continuation.

The defense minister believes Israel must insist on certain conditions before agreeing to the convening of an international peace conference because the conference bears a greater danger for Israel than the dangers involved in direct negotiations. Members of the Oriental Jews for Peace Movement interrupted Mr Rabin's remarks with interjections and criticized the occurrences in the territories.

Rabin on Troops Deployment

TA271854 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Dani Levi in Rabin's office on 27 December, in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles—videotaped]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Levi] Mr Minister, will the current number of security forces continue to enforce the same measures in the next few days as well?

[Rabin] Look, we have no interest in maintaining large troops inside the territories. We currently maintain large troops, and we will continue until we see, within 1 or 2 weeks, that relative calm is restored. We have no interest whatsoever in a confrontation with the population but, at the same time, we will not allow violent riots. This point must be clear. We will help those Palestinians living in the territories who want to maintain their current way of life until a political solution is found and we will not bother them. We have no interest in sending large forces to the territories. [passage omitted]

[Levi] Is there no fear that in the wake of the events in the territories Jordan might be tempted to allow terrorists to infiltrate our territory? Should the latest incident not be regarded as an indication to that effect?

[Rabin] It is my assessment and belief that the infiltration of the terrorist squad belonging to the Abu al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] group last Friday night with the intention of carrying out a murderous attack inside Israeli territory—the squad arrived 1 day earlier from Iraq and travelled across Jordan, according to the testimony of the apprehended men—was against Jordan's wish to prevent such events. I have no evidence whatsoever that Jordanian elements were aware of it and I certainly have no evidence that they extended their help. [passage omitted]

3 'Terrorists' Captured on Jordanian Border

TA260914 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] Three terrorists were captured by IDF forces last night after they entered Israeli territory from Jordan. Our forces did not sustain any casualties. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that a terrorist infiltration was spotted around 2100 near the border with Jordan, next to Kibbutz Ma'oz Hayim. A terrorist was wounded in the exchanges of fire and another two were captured. They were found in the possession of three Kalashnikov rifles, grenades, spikes used to stop cars, and other personal equipment.

The terrorists are members of the Palestine Liberation Front's Abu al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] group whose members carried out the attack on the "Achille Lauro." It seems that the terrorists set out from Iraq and traveled across Jordan. They crossed the Jordan River over stormy waters.

IDF's Mitzna' on Incident

TA270725 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Major General 'Amram Mitzna', the commander of the Central Command, says the Jordanians are doing all they can to prevent terrorists from entering our territory, but they failed this time and the IDF managed to capture the terrorists. This is the real IDF, the commander says, telling our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal that the force that discovered the terrorists opened fire first.

[Begin recording] [Mitzna'] A patrol of ours discovered the hole in the border fence. This started the entire system, which includes following tracks, alerting area settlements, bringing in additional forces, and attempting to establish contact with the terrorists as rapidly as possible.

[Tal] I understand it was the force which established contact that opened fire?

[Mitzna'] Contact was established when a force of ours discovered the terrorists and opened fire immediately. The terrorists returned the fire, using their personal arms and throwing several hand grenades. The IDF soldiers advanced on the terrorists, and they surrendered one by one during the battle.

[Tal] This front has been quiet in recent years. Is there a change in your opinion or is it simply that a terrorist squad managed to elude the Jordanians and cross the border fence?

[Mitzna'] There have been attempts for years by all kinds of organizations to act, particularly in this area of northern Jordan, not far from the meeting point of the Jordan-Israel-Syria borders, with squads that arrive either from Syria or other places. This is indeed the first operation in a long time. It is the first time in 10 years, if I am not mistaken, that such a heavily equipped and armed three-member squad has crossed the border and established contact with our forces.

The main thing that can be noted here is that although the area has been quiet for so many years, the system has been active and managed to stay professional and disciplined while hundreds, if not thousands of small, tiring, routine and dull actions that need to be done for it to run smoothly have been carried out. Last night was a rainy and stormy one, too. Despite all this the system functioned as we expect it to. This is the real IDF. [end recording]

Jordanian Complicity Rejected

TA271200 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 27 Dec 87 p 1

[Excerpt] The infiltration of the three terrorists into the Jordan Valley on Friday night was without the Jordanian authorities' knowledge. This was the assessment by political and military circles last night. The terrorists were captured after a battle not far from the border fence.

It is believed in Israel that King Husayn is not interested in allowing terror activity against Israel from his territory so as not to create unnecessary tension in mutual relations. Leaders of terrorist organizations exert pressure on the king to allow renewed large-scale activity from Jordan, but the king is firmly opposed to this. PLO offices continue their operations in Jordan, but Husayn informed the United States that their activity is limited and non-operational. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 27 December in a page 1 report adds: "Israel acted over the weekend to clarify to Jordan that it does not view Jordan responsible for the dispatch of the terrorist squad whose three members were captured on Friday evening near Kibbutz Ma'oz Hayyim's fence in the Bet She'an valley."]

Jordanian Troops on Alert

TA281107 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Dec 87 p 2

[Report by 'Imanu'el Elneqave]

[Text] Observation posts aimed at Jordanian territory yesterday detected many military vehicles patrolling east of the Jordan River.

The Jordanian Army erected roadblocks on the roads and soldiers checked the identity of passengers. It should be noted that such activity customarily follows infiltrations into Israel from Jordanian territory or firing at Israeli settlements from inside Jordanian territory. This Jordanian activity is meant to "signal" that Jordan is continuing to take action to prevent infiltrations from its territory.

'Military Sources' Deny Intercepting Ship

TA280528 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] The captain of a cargo ship traveling from Beirut to Sidon port Saturday says he was forced to turn back by gunboats which intercepted the ship. REUTER quotes Lloyd's shipping intelligence as saying the ship was redirected by the Israeli Navy and that the ship came under fire from machine guns and heavier weapons. Israeli military sources deny any knowledge of the incident.

Mubarak Accepts Plan for Tripartite Meeting

TA272014 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 27 Dec 87 pp 1, 2

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Dan Avidan]

[Text] At this stage, Egypt will not sever diplomatic relations with Israel because of the events in the territories, President Mubarak told Knesset Member [MK] 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah in Cairo last Thursday. The president said he is committed to a policy of peace with Israel and he believes that relations characterized by cooperation and friendship between Israel and the Arabs should prevail in the Middle East. He added, nevertheless, that Egypt will not come to terms with a continued Israeli rule in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and will strive relentlessly to attain a political solution to the Palestinian problem.

The president noted in this context that Israel "places him in a vulnerable situation" by its objection to the international conference initiative. The president told MK Darawshah that he would discuss the initiatives for the promotion of the peace process with President Reagan during his visit to Washington next month.

President Mubarak gave his consent to Darawshah's initiative to hold a meeting in Cairo in April of Israeli and Egyptian delegates with Palestinians "of stature," namely PLO men. At the same time, Mubarak requested that pro-Jordanian delegates like Rashad al-Shawwa and Ilyas Frayj be included in the meeting, so as to avoid giving the impression that the meeting was meant to isolate Jordan politically. The president instructed his adviser Usamah al-Baz to be in contact with King Husayn so that the latter may propose names of Palestinian delegates acceptable to him.

Intelligence Chief on Syrian Military Strength

TA231726 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Dec 87 pp 1, 5

[Report by military correspondent Re'uven Pedatzur]

[Text] "The Vanunu affair and the publications regarding Israel's missile capability precipitated the development of Syria's nonconventional capacity in the field of chemical weapons," IDF Intelligence Chief Major General Amnon Shahaq stated yesterday in a symposium on the subject of Syria held at the Yad Tabenkin Seminar.

According to Maj Gen Shahaq, Syria's chemical weapons are meant to protect Syria's rearguard and to threaten that of Israel. The Syrians have made constant efforts to develop weapons capable of damaging Israel's rearguard.

He estimated that "Syria will not be launching a war" in the near future. At the same time, however, if Syria set out to attain a specific objective which could entail a military confrontation with Israel, it would take that chance.

The Syrians are well aware of the gap between the ability of their Air Force and that of the IDF. They realize that the situation reflected in the Lebanon war has not changed, and the purchase of MiG-29's was meant to solve part of this problem. Maj Gen Shahaq's evaluation is that the gap between the air forces of the two countries has not narrowed since 1982.

The need to arrive at strategic parity with Israel is no mere slogan in Syria, it is a goal whose achievement the Syrian nation has been paying for in economic hardships. The dire economic situation has led to a wave of corruption and smuggling which the regime has been attempting to combat.

Al-Asad's government has had to cope with a certain restiveness in the nation, but this condition ought not to arouse the Syrian regime's concern. The chief of intelligence considers the Syrian regime capable of dealing with the ferment deriving from the economic difficulties for a long time.

The chief of intelligence believes no change in Syrian-Egyptian relations should be expected in the near future, and that a change in Syrian-Iraqi relations is far from being imminent.

UPI Report on Mossad Infiltration 'Fabrication'

TA281013 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Dec 87 pp 1, 11

[Report by Washington correspondent Erol Guiney]

[Excerpt] Israeli sources in Washington have defined a report on the Pollard affair published by UPI yesterday as a "fabrication."

According to the report, sources in the U.S. State Department have claimed that Israeli Defense Ministry officials who were close to Minister Ari'el Sharon during his tenure as defense minister were agents of a Soviet spy network which had infiltrated the Mossad.

Israeli sources said that UPI was being used by elements in the administration, especially in the Justice Department, who are interested in keeping the Pollard affair alive and in undermining Israeli-U.S. relations. [passage omitted]

Amman TV Carries Husayn IZVESTIYA Interview

JN272033 Amman Television Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 27 Dec 87

["Text" of interview with King Husayn by an unidentified reporter published in the Soviet newspaper IZVESTIYA on 26 December; date and place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Question: The recent Arab summit in Amman passed important political resolutions on the Mideast problem and the Iraq-Iran war. What measures are being taken to implement the resolutions?

Answer: The Amman summit took up many problems causing disquiet to the Arabs, incluing the Palestine cause and the Iraq-Iran dispute. We made our position quite clear on the Iraq-Iran war. We are calling for a swift end to the conflict. The dispute, now in its 8th year, has cost the combatants heavy human and material losses. The conflict continues to pose a great threat to regional and global security. The Arab leaders decided unanimously to promote an enforcement of UN Security Council Resolution No 598, which mirrors the international community's will for restored peace in the Gulf region. It is imperative that the efforts which produced the resolution be followed up with practical steps toward enforcing it as soon as possible.

For our part, we are prepared to support whatever step designed to halt this internecine war. Regarding the Arab-Israeli dispute, the Amman summit resolutions reiterated support for the proposed international Mideast peace conference as the sole vehicle for forging a just peace in the region. We agreed to activate contacts on the highest Arab level, as well as internationally, to promote an early convening of the conference. I had the previlege to chair the Amman summit. Then came my visit to your country, which enjoys a good worldwide reputation, to implement this mission, in addition to others.

Question: The Amman summit was the first meeting to have brought the Arab leaders together in 5 years after the 1982 Fes summit. Many observers see this as one reason for Arab divisions. Is anything being done to remove differences and contradictions between some countries?

Answer: It is unfortunately true there was a long interval between the two summits. I trust Arab summits will henceforth become a regular occurrence. Such conferences are an absolute necessity and must mainly seek to evolve a common Arab position on pressing problems. They should also seek to iron out marginal points of disagreement in the interest of the objectives of the Arab nation. It has to be said that appreciable progress has been made in this respect; there has been tangible improvement in relations between certain Arab states, specifically Iraq and Syria. The talks held by the two countries' leaders in Amman hold out the hope of normalized relations. Following the Amman summit, a number of Arab states reestablished diplomatic ties with Egypt. Some past events stood between Egypt and the Arab world; we were dutybound to rectify the situation in the interest of Arab unity. We think we made a start in this effort.

Question: What is your assessment of the results of your visit to the USSR, your talks with Soviet leaders, and the state of bilateral relations. What are the prospects for fostering ties?

Answer: I am glad to have visited your great country for the second time and to have met with its friendly leaders, who greeted us hospitably. We felt quite at home in Moscow. I was greatly impressed by my meeting with General Secretary Gorbachev. I found him an industrious man, knowledgeable on world affairs. We had a lengthy meeting during which we had a constructive discussion of all of our present day problems. The general Jordanian-Soviet discussions were held in an open atmosphere. They took up specific subjects, were useful, and helped reinforce mutual trust—in my opinion one of the most important results of my visit.

Your country's constant support for the just struggle of the Arab peopels is a cause of continuing satisfaction for us. We are glad our bilateral relations are built on strong foundations of total understanding and common interests. The horizons for developing these ties are unlimited.

Statement on Israeli 'Deportation' Threat

JN241644 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Statement issued by the official spokesman of the Occupied Territories Affairs Ministry in Amman—date not given]

[Text] In confrontation of the kinfolks' uprising in the occupied territories, the Israeli occupation authority has recently issued statements threatening to undertake various repressive measures against the citizens, including deportation.

While the Jordanian Government expresses its rejection of all of the repressive Israeli measures which the occupation authority has been practicing against the citizens, it announces it will take suitable measures to foil any deportation to the East Bank of the Kingdom undertaken by the occupation authority. The Jordanian Government stresses that every citizen in the occupied territories has the right to adhere to his land and resist deportation.

U.S. Hostage Anderson Sends Christmas Message

*NC241527 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1515 GMT 24 Dec 87*

[Text] The Islamic Jihad Organization distributed a video cassette today in which American hostage Terry Anderson sends Christmas messages to his family, friends, and to U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

In the messages, Anderson says: I do not know what to say to my government. I know that you have sought my release. But this is the third Christmas which I have spent as a hostage.

Blames U.S. for Captivity

*NC241730 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1645 GMT 24 Dec 87*

[Text] In a video cassette delivered to a foreign news agency on the occasion of Christmas, U.S. hostage Terry Anderson blamed the U.S. Government for failing to take the necessary steps to ensure his release and that of the other U.S. hostages in Lebanon.

Hostage's Statement

*NC241801 Paris AFP in English 1759 GMT
24 Dec 87*

[Text] Beirut, Dec 24 (AFP)—U.S. journalist Terry Anderson, held captive in Lebanon since March 1985, has criticized Washington for not having done enough to secure the release of the 10 U.S. hostages in this country.

"I know you are trying to get us out but I don't know exactly what you can do," he said in a four-minute videotaped cassettee made available to a Western news agency Thursday in mainly Moslem West Beirut.

"I only know that it has not been enough or the right thing," he charged in a message addressed to both the U.S. Government and President Ronald Reagan.

Mr. Anderson, 40, was Middle East correspondent for the ASSOCIATED PRESS NEWS AGENCY, when he was kidnapped March 16, 1985 in West Beirut.

The abduction was later claimed by a pro-Iranian Shi'ite fundamentalist group, Islamic Jihad.

Bearded, and speaking in a clear, calm voice, Mr. Anderson wore a serious expression but his face did not show signs of exhaustion. He said he was in good health "but tired and very lonely."

Noting that this was to be his third Christmas in captivity he said: "Surely that is enough. It has to be."

He warned that "there is a limit to how long one can last," adding that "some of us are approaching that limit."

Appealing to President Reagan he said: "Surely by now you know what must be done and how you can do it. I know it is difficult, but you can do it."

Mr. Anderson asserted that the conditions under which he and his fellow hostages were being held were "much better than the very poor conditions of those held in Kuwait. If something is done to improve their treatment, ours also will improve."

He was alluding to 17 Shi'ite fundamentalists held in Kuwait in connection with a series of attacks on Kuwaiti and foreign targets there in 1983. Their release has been demanded by Islamic Jihad.

The United States, he continued, was not "completely innocent" in Lebanon.

"Ours hands are not completely free of blood. It is American money, weapons, cluster bombs and phosphorous shells that Israel used in Lebanon, leaving tens of thousands of Palestinians and Lebanese—men, women and children—dead."

But he added that he continued to "support Israel, despite its campaign of repression on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and in southern Lebanon."

He mentioned but did not name three U.S. hostages who have so far been set free. Addressing Mr. Reagan, he said they were "not back with their loved ones because of anything you have done. They were set free unilaterally and because of separate efforts to break the impasse."

Friends and relatives of Mr. Anderson on December 10 held an emotional ceremony in Washington to mark his 1,000th day of captivity, which is the longest of the 20 hostages held in Lebanon.

Mr. Anderson was last heard from October 3, 1986 in another videocassette released by his captors.

Meanwhile, Joelle Kauffman, the wife of a French journalist also held in Lebanon by Islamic Jihad, arrived in Beirut Thursday to spend Christmas near her husband.

It is her third Christmas in the Lebanese capital since Jean-Paul Kauffman was abducted May 22, 1985.

Abu Nidal Statement on European Hostages

*NC251952 Paris AFP in English 1935 GMT
25 Dec 87*

[Text] Beirut, Dec 25 (AFP)—Jacqueline Valente, one of eight French or Belgian nationals held hostage by a Palestinian group in Lebanon, has given birth prematurely to a baby girl, the captors announced in a communique.

The mother and the baby are both "in excellent health," said the Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC), a Palestine Liberation Organization breakaway group led by Abu Nidal, in a communique delivered to a Western news agency here.

The group claimed November 8 to have abducted eight people aboard a pleasure craft off the coast of the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip. It claimed the eight had dual Israeli-Belgian or Israeli-French nationality.

Israeli officials have denied that the people named by the group held Israeli passports, and said the incident could not have occurred in Israeli-patrolled waters.

The communique said Mrs. Valente gave birth two months premature, with the help of a specialized doctor, to a girl "whose father is Fernand Houdekins."

"The mother and daughter are in excellent health and are receiving the necessary care," it added.

The eight people held by FRC are two Belgian brothers, Fernand and Emmanuel Houdekins, Fernand's companion Mrs. Valente, who is French, her two daughters, Marie-Laure and Virginie, Emmanuel's wife, Godelieve Kets, and their two children, Laurent and Valerie.

The group was last heard from December 4, when a spokesman announced that the "interrogation" of the hostages was nearly finished, and representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross would soon be allowed to visit the captives.

On Interrogation

NC271550 Paris AFP in English 1545 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Beirut, Dec 27 (AFP)—The Fatah Revolutionary Council Sunday said it was continuing to interrogate eight French and Belgian prisoners it was holding and made no allusion to reports from Paris that they were soon to be released.

A statement here said the group, an offshoot of the Palestine Liberation Organization and founded by Abu Nidal, accused the eight people it captured in November aboard a yacht in the eastern Mediterranean of working for Israeli intelligence.

The statement made no mention of remarks Saturday in Paris by Lucien Bitterlin, president of the Franco-Arab Solidarity Association.

Mr. Bitterlin said the releases would be carried out unconditionally "in the coming weeks." He said he had been told of the impending liberation "in my position as publisher of the FRANCE-PAYS ARABES monthly magazine."

The Fatah Revolutionary Council said it seized the yacht off the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip on November 8 and maintained that the eight people aboard had dual Israeli-Belgian or Israeli-French nationality.

But officials in Jerusalem denied that any of the captives held Israeli citizenship or that the vessel had been seized in Israeli territorial waters.

Fadlallah Calls for Release of Hostages

NC251732 Paris AFP in English 1612 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Beirut, Dec 25 (AFP)—Lebanese and Palestinians held in south Lebanon and Israel should be released in exchange for "innocent" Western hostages detained in Lebanon, the spiritual guide of pro-Iranian Lebanese Moslem fundamentalists, Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, said at Friday prayers.

Shaykh Fadlallah reminded the captors of Western hostages that "Islam prohibits" kidnapping and recited an appropriate verse from the Koran on the subject.

Shaykh Fadlallah criticised those who are calling for the release of Western hostages but who "do nothing for Palestinian hostages in occupied Palestine (Israel) and Lebanese hostages held in Al-Khiyam," a prison manned by the Israeli-trained South Lebanon Army in southern Lebanon.

"We demand the liberation of these hostages so that innocent (Western) hostages who are not spies or enemies of Islam can also be liberated," Shaykh Fadlallah said.

He stressed that there "cannot be two scales of justice," and that the hostage issue must be dealt with "globally."

At least 19 Western hostages are being held in Lebanon. Most are thought to be detained by pro-Iranian groups.

2 Syrians Strangled in West Beirut 23 Dec

NC241257 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] Despite the extraordinary measures and the temporary and fixed roadblocks which the Syrian forces established in West Beirut following the murder of two of their members in Corniche al-Mazra'ah near the former PLO headquarters yesterday, the Voice of Lebanon correspondent has reported that two other soldiers were strangled to death at midnight last night in the same area. This brings the total number of the murdered Syrians to four.

The 9 February Organization has meanwhile declared that it attacked a Syrian position in Al-Najmah Square in Tripoli at 2200 last night and that it repeated the attack at approximately 0330 today. The organization spoke of casualties in the ranks of the Syrian soldiers.

Syrians Deploy in New Positions in Al-Biqa'

NC252113 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] A Lebanese security source has reported that a Syrian force equipped with field guns and other weapons has taken up position in Mashgharah in western Al-Biqa'.

The source added that Syrian security personnel have also been deployed in 'Ayn al-Tinah. This is the first time the Syrians have deployed in these locations since they entered the area.

Joint Patrol Hit by Amal Bomb in South

NC261729 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] At 1145 today, one of the Lebanese Resistance—Amal squads planted a bomb on the road leading to Arnun Castle. Later on, the bomb exploded as a joint patrol of enemy and agent forces was passing. A vehicle was hit and completely destroyed. Casualties could not be determined because of the security cordon which was imposed there.

Crew of Israeli Tank Killed in Resistance Attack

NC261752 Paris AFP in English 1707 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] Beirut, Dec 26 (AFP)—An Israeli tank was blown up and its crew killed in an attack by the pro-Iranian Islamic Resistance in southern Lebanon on Saturday, a communique from the group issued here said.

The Islamic Resistance, the armed wing of Hizballah, or the Party of God, carried out the attack with a remote-controlled device on a road near Al-Nabatiyah, some 75 kilometres (45 miles) south of here in the "security zone" established by Israel along the Lebanese border.

Six Islamic Resistance fighters were killed on Monday when the group attacked positions held by the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army militia in the region.

Commentary on Defining Arab Enemies, Friends

JN250902 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] Recently Arab circles have been increasingly concentrating on the issue of unity of Arab ranks to face the obligations which could arise in the next stage as a result of the Soviet-U.S. summit and its expected effect on the international approach to regional problems. The Middle East problem is among the most complex and critical problems connected with the interests of the various regional and international blocs. It is also potentially inflammable and poses an unpredictable danger for peace and security outside the region.

The Arabs are a principal party to the Middle East problem. Indeed, they differ from the other parties in that their struggle is one of destiny against any enemy that planned to uproot them from their land and supplant them with Jewish settlers imported from various parts of the world. This is to set up a Biblical Israel extending geographically from the Nile to the Euphrates and politically from one end of the Arab homeland to the other.

Obviously, the Arabs' interest in the Middle East problem and its developments differs from the interest of the parties to whom the problem is not one of destiny and survival. Consequently, Arab moves in the various arenas of the struggle in the Middle East problem are supposed to be different from the moves of others and should have the enthusiasm of the defense of the homeland, rights, dignity, and destiny.

If one were to consider the manpower, economic, scientific, political, and military resources, one must admit the Arabs have enough of these to improve their present position. One must also admit that the Arabs have the means to create conditions favorable for establishing a just peace in the region based on the liberation of the occupied territory and regaining the expropriated Arab rights.

The Arabs do not suffer from a dearth of resources but from their misuse and poor exploitation. These resources have been wasted and are being wasted in places other than those where they should be deployed and in matters too distant from the affairs of destiny. Were it not so, Israel would not have been acting in such a bullying manner in the West Bank, Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip, and southern Lebanon and its armies would not have invaded Arab territory reaching the banks of the Suez Canal and an Arab capital, Beirut.

All the Arabs know these facts. They call for averting them by unifying Arab ranks and rallying Arab resources for self-defense in the face of the Zionist design that does not spare an Arab country or an Arab source of wealth including oil. However, there is a lack of practical implementation of the steps dictated by such knowledge in the way of unifying ranks, rallying forces, defining enemies and friends, and deploying resources in the areas of confrontation with the nation's enemy. Increasing numbers are calling for the unity of Arab ranks and improving the state of inter-Arab relations. Now is the time for us to be alert to a basic condition for unifying Arab ranks and rallying Arab forces, namely defining the enemy, the place of the battle, and the goal.

The enemy has been defined in the resolutions of previous [Arab] summits. The place and arena of the battle with that enemy have also been defined by summit resolutions. They are also determined by the Israeli war machine and expansion strongly supported by U.S. imperialism. The goal has also been defined in Arab documents. It is the establishment of a just peace that restores the land and rights to those to whom they belong and prevents aggression. The goal also prohibits occupation and the annexation of the territory of others by force and imposes a respect for the principles of the UN Charter and UN resolutions.

All the above is defined in Arab documents. If the Arab situation and the state of Arab relations are not in harmony with the provisions of such agreements, that means some Arab parties did not adhere to previous verbal and written agreements. These parties should revert to complete abidance by Arab summit resolutions. They should place pan-Arab commitments above all other commitments. They should also desist from embroiling themselves in battles that are not with the national enemy.

When these parties do this, then there will be a solid and sound ground for the unity of Arab ranks and actions and there will be objective conditions that bring closer the possibility of realistic consideration of the establishment of a just peace. There will then be conditions that give Arab actions and stands a great weight in international efforts to resolve the Middle East problem.

Afghanistan

Fighting Around Khowst Continues; Casualties

5 Aircraft Reported Downed

BK260643 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] In Afghanistan, some 18,000 Soviets and thousands of Kabul administration's troops and militiamen are fighting with the mujahidin to break latter's siege around Khowst in Paktia Province. According to reports, the Soviet-Kabul troops have not made any advance toward Khowst because of stiff resistance from the mujahidin who are effectively blocking their advances into mountain passes.

The mujahidin have shot down 5 aircraft and also claim to have destroyed 4 more aircraft at Khowst airport, besides destroying 63 vehicles.

Mujahidin Gains Reported

OW270519 Tokyo KYODO in English 0456 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Islamabad, Dec. 27, KYODO—The Soviet-Afghan force moving toward the beseiged garrison of Khowst in Paktia Province in southeastern Afghanistan has been stopped midway between Khowst and Gardeyz where heavy fighting was in progress, resistance sources in Peshawar said Sunday.

The operation to lift the seige of the Khowst garrison was the biggest offensive ever launched by a combined force of Soviet-Afghan troops since the Soviet occupation which began eight years ago. The combined force was being led by Gen. Shanawa Tani, chief of the central command of the Afghan Army and himself a resident of Khowst.

Maranjan, where the military convoy carrying supplies for the beleaguered soldiers of Khowst has been stopped, is in the territory inhabited by the militant Zadran tribe.

The Peshawar-based Afghan Resource Media Center (ARMC) reported extensive damage to the Soviet-Afghan military convoy at Maranjan. It said 30 Afghan soldiers have defected to the mujahidin and several tanks, military vehicles, and armored personnel carriers were destroyed.

Aircraft flying from Kabul and Gardeyz were providing aerial cover to the military convoy, which was using long-range artillery.

Afghan guerrillas have been controlling the 125-kilometer long Gardeyz-Khowst road for the last eight years and had heavily mined the route in anticipation of the government offensive. However, following a full offensive on December 20, the Soviets had dropped commandos at many points on the mountainous route to clear the way for the main convoy.

The ARMC said in its report Saturday that commandos airdropped at Showrak and Nader Shah Kowt have been trapped by the mujahidin and were fighting for their survival.

Rebels Say Position Improved

BK271416 Hong Kong AFP in English 1405 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 27 (AFP)—A large column of Afghan and Soviet forces trying to relieve the Afghan garrison town of Khowst has become bogged down in the Zadran pass, Afghan resistance sources said Sunday.

They said the column—trying to make its way to Khowst, under seige from Afghan guerrillas since 1979—had been unable to make any headway for two days.

The sources also reported "very heavy fighting" at Maranjan Bazar, along the mountainous Gardeyz-Khowst road where, they said, mujahidin fighters had destroyed 10 tanks and captured 45 Kabul government soldiers. Exact casualty figures were not immediately available, the sources said.

They said fresh reinforcements of guerrilla fighters had reached the area—considered a rebel stronghold since Soviet forces intervened in Afghanistan eight years ago.

A source close to Mawlawi Muhammad Khalis, chief of the 7-member Afghan rebel alliance, claimed that the guerrillas' position had improved markedly over the weekend.

"It appears that the (Soviet and Afghan) troops may not succeed" in their bid to relieve Khowst, the source said. He said they remained about 70 kilometers (40 miles) from the city.

La'eq Says Road to Khowst Open

LD272022 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Sulayman La'eq, minister of tribal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, in reply to a question from a BIA correspondent in connection with the situation in Khowst major district said: On 30 November the representatives of the Grand Assembly of Afghanistan discussed and exchanged views about the situation in Khowst major district and Zadran.

This discussion took place after esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, briefed the representatives of the Grand Assembly on the situation in Khowst major district and mentioned that for 9 years the security on the Gardeyz-Khowst highway, which passes through Zadran region, has been endangered by the counterrevolutionary extremists. This has caused more than 40,000 noble and innocent people in Khowst to be deprived of primary goods and the receipt of grants-in-aid from the friendly country, the Soviet Union.

Esteemed Najibullah also pointed out in the Grand Assembly that if the security of the Gardeyz-Khowst highway is not ensured, then it is possible that the Khowst people will face starvation, and even possible that imperialism and international reaction, with assistance from the extremists, might hand over Khowst—which is a part of the soil of our united and independent country—to foreigners.

As a result of this discussion by representatives of the Grand Assembly and the proposals by the representatives of the provinces of Paktia, Paktika and Khowst major district, the participants of the Grand Assembly unanimously approved a resolution and decided that an committee should be set up to talk with the people of Zadran about ensuring the security of the Gardeyz-Khowst highway. In this resolution a time was fixed for this matter.

Sulayman La'eq added: In accordance with the Grand Assembly's decision a committee made up of representatives from Paktia, Paktika and Khowst major district was formed. It held a session on 5 December in Gardeyz city and sent a message to the Zadran tribes on 7 December.

The message says: We, the elders, ulema and shaykhs from the provinces of Paktia, Paktika and Khowst major district, according to a decision by Afghanistan's Grand Assembly and principles of Islamic and Afghan brotherhood, have gathered in Gardez city to hold talks with you to ensure the security of the Gardeyz-Khowst highway. We invite you, our dear brothers, to hold an assembly with us in Gardeyz, Khowst, or Seyyed Karam 1 week from the date of this message. We guarantee your safety and honor.

The message also says: It is in the interest of all Afghanistan's people and the dear people of Zadran to reconcile with the government in accordance with the instructions of God, may he be glorified and the prophet Muhammad, may God's prayers and peace be upon him and his family.

This message was sent to the Zadran people. As these people have lost their will against the extremist elements and have been under the influence of foreign elements and the enemies of Afghanistan's people for 9 years, they were not able to give a positive answer to the Islamic and Afghan peace proposals by the aforementioned assembly. They not only refused to come to the place fixed for the meeting but they also refused to allow the assembly to go to their region. In addition, the members of the assembly published 100 copies of their message and sent them to the region of Zadran. Also the text of the message was broadcast for 1 week via local radio stations.

Finally, on 19 December the assembly, by approving a resolution on the results of its mission informed the government officially. The resolution says: The assembly of elders and chieftains of Paktia, Paktika and Khowst major district, following the decisions of the historical Grand Assembly of 29 and 30 November, in order to ensure security on the Gardeyz-Khowst highway and to create a positive climate via the assembly with elders and leaders of the Zadran tribe, sent letters and friendly messages addressed to various leaders of Zadran. At the same time, messages of peace were broadcast to the Zadran tribes and special interviews and messages by the members of this assembly and conversation in the roundtables were broadcast.

But, unfortunately, the Grand Assembly of elders and tribal chieftains of Pakhtia, Pakthika and Khowst major district, did not receive a reply or a positive response from the Zadran tribe. They were not able to say yes, under the influence of Zadran extremist and foreign elements and the enemies of the Afghan people, to the invitation of our assembly for peace and the Government of Republic of Afghanistan and to drive back the extremists and to ensure the security of their region.

Therefore, the state feels free to take the necessary steps in this regard. The resolution adds that the members of the assembly, based on the great trust that the Republic of Afghanistan government has expressed in the elders and chieftains of Pakhtia, in response they express thanks from the bottoms of their hearts. They praise the great patience of the state and the serious observation, of people's tradition and the observance of a cease-fire by the peace-loving Armed Forces during the assembly meeting.

The resolution says that it is obvious and has been proved to us that the Republic of Afghanistan government does not spare any efforts to implement the righteous cause of the national reconciliation policy and to ensure peace. All the participants of the assembly in the future will continue to meet with and hold peaceful talks with the brothers and dear people of Zadran in order to establish peace with enormous patience and in order to create a climate of positive understanding.

The minister of tribes and nationalities said: After all these peace measures by the relevant authorities and using local means, measures have been taken to ensure peace in Zadran region. We inform the compatriots that at present the security of Gardeyz-Khowst Highway has been ensured and is opened for normal traffic.

Sulayman La'eq added at the end: After 9 years of undeclared war against our country, it should be apparent to anyone with good sense that no force in the world however powerful it might be will be able to divert our people from the path that they have chosen towards reconciliation and ensuring nationwide peace in the country.

Our compatriots will soon be informed about the situation in Khowst in detail.

Mujahidin Deny Breakthrough

BK280048 Hong Kong AFP in English 2023 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 27 (AFP)—An Afghan rebel leader Sunday vehemently denied reports broadcast on Radio Kabul that Soviet-Afghan troops had managed to break through the rebel siege on the strategic garrison town of Khowst.

Hamid Gailani, a leader of the Afghanistan Islamic National Front, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE: "It is new propaganda, the information is false and the mujahidin still have control of this area."

He said he had contacted the mujahidin leadership in the region Sunday morning and had been assured the rebels still surrounded Khowst and there had been no change in the situation.

1,603 Rebels 'Crushed'

LD281711 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] According to a report by a BIA correspondent, the country's brave Armed Forces, in accordance with a timetable, began their crushing attacks on the devilish nests of the extremist groups deployed along the Gardeyz-Khowst highway. As a result of this successful operation, 145,000 surface-to-surface rockets and 2 launching systems; 20 rocket launchers and 51,000 shells; 3 recoilless rifles and 60,000 shells; 5 mortars and 12,000 shells; 20 Chinese Dshks and 1,700 boxes of shells, three ZK-one's [as heard] with 86,000 shells; hundreds of light weapons and 17,000 boxes of shells; and 12 depots for the [word indistinct] material were seized by the country's brave Armed Forces. Ten systems for launching surface-to-surface rockets, two systems for launching surface-to-air rockets and 30 various depots of the enemy were destroyed.

As a result of the crushing blows by the brave Armed Forces, who carried out the military operations with a spirit full of defense of homeland and self-sacrifice for the implementation of the resolutions of the Grand Assembly, and ensuring peace and security in the region and to help the people of Khowst, 1,603 extremists were crushed.

Since the beginning of the successful operations, 7 Armed Forces personnel, including 1 officer and 6 soldiers were martyred, and 26 were injured.

As a result of successful operations by the Armed Forces, at present the security of the Gardeyz-Khowst highway has been ensured and it is open for traffic.

Mujahidin Report Claims Soviet Losses Increase

LD261746 Tehran IRNA in English 1735 GMT 26 Dec 87

["Steep Rise in Soviet Losses in Afghanistan as 9th Year of Occupation Approaches"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Islamabad, Dec. 26, IRNA—An estimated 9,217 Soviet and Afghan regime soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan in battles with mujahidin since March 22 this year, according to the statistics released by Afghan mujahidin here Saturday.

The report said that mujahidin also shot down 251 planes and 201 helicopters of the joint forces over the last nine months, a three-fold increase compared to the 1986 figures.

In 1987, it continued, 813 tanks and armoured personnel carriers as well as 1,262 tanks, trucks and other vehicles of the joint forces were destroyed by the Afghan mujahidin.

The statistics further reveal that 4,781 Afghan soldiers defected to the mujahidin this year, up by 35 percent as compared to the previous year's figure.

Meanwhile the occupation forces continued their savage attacks on unarmed civilians, said the report adding that a total of 22,294 Afghan civilians were martyred and 24,671 others seriously wounded in air raids and shelling of the joint forces over the above-mentioned period. 90 percent of the martyred and wounded were women and children, it concluded.

Mujahidin Down Soviet MIG Over Kabul Province

LD241757 Tehran IRNA in English 1715 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] Islamabad, Dec. 24, IRNA—A Soviet MIG-21 warplane was shot down by Afghan Muslim revolutionaries on Dec. 21, while attempting to bomb mujahidin positions in Darreh-ye Shekari, Kabul province. The pilot was killed when the plane crashed in flames.

Meanwhile, Khowst garrison in Paktia Province, scene of intense fighting between the mujahidin and Soviet-Afghan forces during the past few weeks, continued to be under the seige of Afghan revolutionaries.

In a telephone contact with IRNA, Afghan mujahidin sources denied Radio Moscow's report that some 1,500 mujahidin were killed in the Khowst battles.

The sources said that around 50 mujahidin were martyred and 150 others wounded, while over 700 Soviet-Afghan troops were killed by the Afghan revolutionaries.

Heavy fighting between the two forces around the besieged Khowst garrison is reported to have raged on.

Rebels Attack Bus in Herat Province, Kill 28

LD261655 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] By perpetrating another unforgivable crime, the extremist elements have brought sadness to the residents of Karokh District, Herat Province, over the loss of their beloved ones.

According to the BAKHTAR military correspondent, at 1700 yesterday these criminals and murderers of our innocent compatriots, used missiles and hand grenades, in the region of Chaqmaq, Karokh district, to attack a bus which was taking passengers from Herat city to their homes. They martyred 28 innocent compatriots including children, women, and men. Moreover, 18 passengers were seriously injured in this incident and their wealth was plundered by these professional thieves.

The report adds that the security forces quickly arrived at the scene of crime and transferred the injured persons to hospital.

The national reconciliation commissions of Karokh District and Herat Province, as well as the residents have strongly denounced this action of the extremists which took place under the circumstances of implementing the policy of national reconciliation where all of our compatriots are working to end the war and implement the historic decisions of the Grand Assembly in the country. They have sent their curse to the perpetrators of this fearful deed.

Homes in Herat Shelled

LD281613 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Persons belonging to extremist groups caused a number of our compatriots yesterday to be in mourning after they committed an unforgivable and shocking action.

According to a report by a BIA military correspondent, these professional criminals and killers martyred nine of our compatriots, including children and women, by firing mortar shells at homes in Herat Province. They also injured another 26 including, 7 small children. The report adds that the injured were sent immediately to the hospital and were treated. The citizens of Herat met and condemned this savage and anti-Islamic action by the extremists and cursed the perpetrators of this incident.

20 Surface-to-Surface Missiles Discovered

LD251643 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] As a result of timely action by the courageous security forces of the country, the perpetration of another crime by the extremists has been foiled.

The BAKHTAR military correspondent reports that 20 surface-to-surface missiles which were deployed by the extremists in the surroundings of Paghman district, in order to be fired at the houses of our compatriots, were discovered with the cooperation of this district's people and were removed from that location by the country's security forces.

Najibullah-Led Delegation Departs For India

LD242213 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Excerpts] [Passage indistinct] members of the Politburo and secretariates of the PDPA Central Committee; the vice chairmen and members of the Revolutionary Council and the Council of Ministers; executive officials of the National Front; the head and members of the Supreme Court; deputies and members of the Supreme Commission for National Reconciliation; officials of social organizations; the head and members of the High Council for Ulema and Religious Leaders; generals of the Armed Forces; representatives of the workers of Kabul city; and ambassadors, charges d'affaires, and military attaches of friendly countries accredited in Kabul were present to bid farewell.

President Najibullah arrived at Kabul International Airport at about 0900 this morning with an escort of motorcyclists. Then, accompanied by Major General Muhammad Rafi', minister of defense, he inspected the honor guard. [passage omitted]

The high-ranking delegation comprises 'Abdul Wakil, member of the Politburo and minister of foreign affairs; Shanawa Tani, candidate member of the Politburo and chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces; and 'Abdul Hamid Mohtat, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers. A group of our country's journalists is accompanying the high-ranking delegation.

According to another report, while the plane carrying President Najibullah was passing over Pakistan's airspace, the following message was sent addressed to Muhammad Ziaul Haq, president of Pakistan: Your Excellency Muhammad Ziaul Haq, president of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, while flying through Pakistan's airspace I take the opportunity to express to you and to the people of Pakistan sincere wishes of peace and coexistence. I hope relations between the Republic of Afghanistan and Islamic Republic of Pakistan will be built in the interest of the people of our neighbor country and in the interest of strengthening peace in the region and all over the world.

Commentary on Najibullah Tour

LD242234 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 0735 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, left Kabul today on a friendly visit to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the People's Republic of Kampuchea [PRK] at the formal invitation of these countries. He will also make a stopover in the fraternal country of india. President Najibullah's, visit to these countries is a great political event, which has a direct link with the efforts of the Republic of Afghanistan to achieve a settlement of the situation around Afghanistan, to ensure peace and tranquility, mutual cooperation, and friendship in the region and in South Asia, for strengthening the role of Afghanistan as the vanguard of the national reconciliation theory and to implement the peace policy of the Grand Assembly.

Esteemed Najibullah's stopover in the fraternal country of India has fundamental political importance. This is not only a demonstration of the profound and fraternal relations between the republics of Afghanistan and India and the peaceful solution of regional problems and peaceful coexistence, and ensuring the peace and tranquility of the neighboring countries, but it will also bring about a practical concordance at a new level between the two countries as regards the implementation of national reconciliation and the settlement of the situation around Afghanistan. It will also help to develop mutual economic, trade, technical, and cultural cooperation between the two fraternal countries.

The political focal point of this trip to these friendly countries by President Najibullah is to explain the policy of national reconciliation and the acquisition and exhange of experience. National reconciliation has been transformed into a reality and an international experience. The chairman of the Council of Ministers of the PRK has said that the policy of national reconciliation should play a decisive role in the settlement of disputes.

In Afghanistan, the implementation of this policy opens the way for the cessation of futile bloodshed and the solution of the urgent national problems as the guidline of the government's activities. President Najibullah's visit to Vietnam and Cambodia demonstrates this fact in order to strenghen Afghanistan's international relations and to show that the world recognizes Afghanistan as a country fighting for national reconciliation and for peace and security in the region, which wants friendly relations with the Republic of Afghanistan.

The exchange of experience about the peace and tranquility of societies develops at a high level because every country has rich experiences from their struggle to establish peace and security and socioeconomic development. These experiences have major international importance. Likewise, this trip shows that peace and security are common problems for the Asian countries. They can only be solved politically. Afghanistan's efforts to achieve a political solution to the situation around Afghanistan is a guiding example in this respect.

The people of Vietnam, Cambodia, and the great peace-loving people of India always support the efforts of the Republic of Afghanistan for peace and progress and the theory of national reconciliation. Obviously, with the visit of President Najibullah, the relations of our countries will reach a new stage. It creates new circumstances for mutual cooperation in the establishment of work for peace in the region and in South Asia as a whole. This policy of the establishment of peace particularly demonstrates a new trend in the Nonaligned Movement for a common struggle in the region.

The Republic of Afghanistan has brought the ancient traditions of the people's struggle to a new stage for the development and establishment of the Nonaligned Movement through the implementation of national reconciliation. And it helps with the enforcement of peace in our region, South Asia and the Pacific by the Nonaligned Movement taking this side.

The visit of President Najibullah of Afghanistan is a new political experience in deepening the progress of the countries and the maintainance of peace in the region and in the Asian countries. As a great political event, this visit will obviously have influence on transforming the situation in the region.

Najibullah Visits SRV

For reports on President Najibullah's visit to the SRV, including talks held with Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, see the Vietnam section of the 28 December East Asia DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Foreign Ministry Briefing on Najibullah, Khowst

LD272301 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] An explanatory meeting was held today in the Ministry of Foreign Affair. It was attended by press attaches and journalists of friendly countries. Muhammad Nabi 'Azimi, deputy defense minister, and Muhammad Faruq Karmand, deputy minister of foreign affairs informed them about the retrieval of the security of the Gardeyz-Khowst highway and the situation in Khowst. They also briefed them on the trip of esteemed Najibillah, the president of the Republic of Afghanistan, to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the People's Republic of Kampuchea, and then answered the journalists' questions.

BAKHTAR Statement on FRG 'Secret Agent'

LD251435 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 25 Dec 87

["BIA statement"—BAKHTAR headline]

[Text] Kabul, 25 Dec (BAKHTAR)—Despite the repeated initiatives of the Afghan Government to normalize the situation inside the country within the framework of the national reconciliation policy, the undisguised interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan by foreign states and by their secret services is being continued.

The so-called advisers—military instructors and specialists whose activities bring new destruction, tears, and bloodshed to the long-suffering Afghan land—are being infiltrated into the country's territory.

The fate of these secret agents mostly ends in a tragic manner. They enjoy the best privileges before the courts of Afghanistan.

A while ago an armed opposition group, in following the policy of national reconciliation in Kandahar Province, came over to the side of national sovereignty and it handed over to the competent authorities of Afghanistan an instructor who was carrying out destructive and terrorist activities named Osman Demir, who entered the country secretly from Pakistan.

Osman Demir said during the investigation that he is an FRG citizen and is West German secret service agent. Upon illegally crossing into Afghan territory from Pakistan, he engaged in training insurgents in terrorist activities, gathered reconnaissance information, and recruited agents among Afghans.

One of the main tasks of this so-called "expert" was to train counterrevolutionaries in using Stinger antiaircraft missiles against Afghan aircraft. Demir unashamedly said he personally had taken part in Stinger launchings which mostly peaceful passengers such as old men, women, and children are known to have fallen victim to.

In view of the above fact the BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY is authorized to state that the ongoing subversive activity against the Republic of Afghanistan on the part of the secret services of Western countries is evidence of hostile forces' intentions to frustrate the national reconciliation process to which there is no other alternative in the country. Such actions will be stopped most resolutely, and the entire responsibility for possible consequences rests with their organizers.

BBC Cameraman Believed Killed by Rebels

LD231949 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1915 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Excerpts] A top British TV cameraman is thought to have been shot dead while filming in Afghanistan. Andy Skrzypkowiak, 36, an ex-paratrooper who specialised in war filming, was working for the BBC when he was thought to have been captured by a bandit group.

Andy, the British-born son of Polish parents, left for Afghanistan about three months ago to film with members of a guerrilla group. But reports, which have just reached Britain from Pakistan, suggest he was held up and taken prisoner by bandits known to have stopped and robbed other journalists. It is thought he was travelling on foot in mountains in north-east Afghanistan, 40 miles from the Pakistan border when he was captured. It is thought he managed to escape but was followed and shot. [passage omitted]

It is believed his attackers were members of the Hezb-e Eslami (Gulbuddin Hikmatyar) party, a rebel group fighting both the Russians and also other guerrilla groups. Four members of the group have been detained by Pakistan police and are being questioned in Peshawar about attacks on other journalists and cameramen. "They were said to be found in possession of a lot of money and an expensive camera, but I haven't yet been given the chance to see whether any of the items belonged to Andy," said Christine. [passage omitted]

Bangladesh

President Reshuffles Cabinet Portfolios

BK231256 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] The Bangladesh president on Wednesday reallocated portfolios of some ministers and state ministers. According to the reallocation, Minister Major General, retired, M. Lhamsul Haq will now hold the charge of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation; Mirza Ruhul Amin, the Ministry of Social Welfare and Women Affairs; Anwar Zahid, the Ministry of Information; State Minister Mustafa Jamal Haider, Ministry of Labor and Manpower Resources; and State Minister Professor Abdus Salam, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock.

The president also appointed AVM [Air Vice Marshal] Ruhul Amin Havaldar as his adviser. During his tenure of office, Mr Havaldar will enjoy the status of a state minister.

Finance Minister Resigns

BK261228 Hong Kong AFP in English 1156 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 26 (AFP)—The resignation of Bangladeshi Finance Minister M. Syeduzzaman has been confirmed and he has been replaced by Commerce

Minister Abdul Munim, the official BSS News Agency said Saturday. It is not known who will take over as commerce minister. The announcement ended speculation in the press here about the departure of Mr. Syeduzzaman, who on Wednesday told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE he had submitted his resignation a few months ago on "personal grounds."

Munim New Finance Minister

BK261310 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] The Bangladesh president has given the charge of the Ministry of Finance to Commerce Minister M.A. Munim. An announcement of the Cabinet Division said in Dhaka on Saturday [26 December] that Mr Munim has been relieved of the responsibility of the Ministry of Commerce. Meanwhile, another announcement of the Cabinet Division said the president earlier accepted the resignation of Finance Minister M. Syeduzzaman and relieved him of the responsibility of the Ministry of Finance.

Protestors Stone Soviet Cultural Center

BK271605 Hong Kong AFP in English 1528 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 27 (AFP)—Demonstrators stoned the Soviet cultural centre in Dhaka on Sunday, shouting slogans against Moscow's military involvement in Afghanistan, police said. The protestors arrived in a jeep, hurled stones, shouted anti-Soviet and pro-Afghan slogans, then fled, a police official said.

No arrests were made and no one claimed responsibility for the incident, which damaged the lake-side cultural centre in the Dhanmondi residential district of the capital. A Soviet Embassy spokesman confirmed the incident, but declined to comment.

The attack coincided with calls by several right-wing organizations in Bangladesh, including the Jamiat-i Islami Party, to observe the eighth anniversary of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

President on Armed Forces' Role in Country

BK241604 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Excerpt] President Ershad has said the Armed Forces are ever ready to safeguard the independence and sovereignty of the country. He was addressing the president's parade marking the passing out of the 17th BNA [Bangladesh National Army] long course and 5th BNA special regular course of the Bangladesh Military Academy at Bhatiari in Chittagong today. The president, who is the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, told the new officers that they are becoming members of that patriotic Armed Forces which was born during the glorious war of independence. The contributions of our brave soldiers who fought along with the people will be written in golden letters in our history.

Emphasizing the need for continued in-service training, he said they will also have to think about the welfare of the people by rising above self-interest. In the present days, defense and development cannot be separated, and hence they are to respond to the call of humanity at the time of national emergency. He said the responsibility of defending independence and sovereignty as well as promoting socioeconomic uplift can be discharged only through honesty and discipline.

Earlier, on arrival at the parade ground, the president was received by the chief of the Army staff, Lieutenent General M. Atiqur Rahman; local area commander, Major General Abdus Salam; and the commandant of the Academy, Brigadier M.G. Rabbani. [passage omitted]

Ershad Optimistic on Solving Tribal Issue

BK250208 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] President Ershad has expressed his optimism about a solution to the tribal problem in Chittagong Hill Tracts. He was speaking to a cross section of people, including the tribal leaders, duying his visit to Rajasthali upazilla [subdistrict] in Rangamati yesterday. The president referred to the meeting between government officials and the tribal leaders and said peace started moving in right direction. Considerable progress has been made in this regard. He also thanked the common people of the hill tracts for their spontaneous and active support to his initiative to find a solution to the tribal problem.

The president said there should not be any confusion about the government gesture for a solution to the tribal people as we are all Bangladeshis. We want to see peace return to Chittagong Hill Tracts area at the earliest and the people living there lead a happy and peaceful life striving for progress.

Turning to the special attention given by his government to the development of the region, he said Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board, with separate budgetary provision, has already completed various development programs for the economic uplift of the local people.

He inaugurated the newly constructed upazilla parishad [council] building. From there the president went to the local Army camp and met the officers and the troops. Speaking on the occasion, he praised the role of the members of Armed Forces for their patriotism and service to the nation in upholding the independence and sovereignty of the country. Chief of Army staff, Lieutenant General M. Atiqur Rahman, and Chittagong area commander, Major General Abdus Salam, were with the president during the visit.

Ershad Reiterates Promise of Fair Elections

BK231605 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] President Ershad has said elections will be held and the polls will be fair. He called upon the opposition political parties to go to the people for their mandate instead of indulging in terrorism and indiscipline. Addressing a big peasants rally at Shenbagh in Noakhali today, he reiterated that there is no alternative to elections, which is the only constitutional means for changing the government. The president said politics of hartal [strike] and anarchy which disrupts the economic life of the people can never bring popularity for anybody. Those who have no support among the people are trying to reap benefits by creating chaos.

He said the politics of indiscipline and terrorism are confined to the cities only. Time is not far off when these elements who have been working against the interest of the people will not be able to go to the rural areas if they continue their politics of disruption.

Continued political stability is of paramount importance for achieving progress and development. In this context he mentioned various steps taken by his government to ensure stability through a democratic process. But he admitted that when the nation was passing through an era of peace and stability, some political elements have taken recourse to disruption and terrorism to undo the hard-earned progress and development.

The president said the so-called movement launched by these elements is not aimed at progress and prosperity. They want to enslave the nation at the hands of those who have never wanted us to make self-reliant. If industries remain closed and production disrupted, who are going to be benefited, he asked. By disrupting normal economic life, these handful of elements want to make the country a market of low quality foreign goods, he observed. The people are now aware of those who instigate school and college students to join procession and throw bombs, while sending their own children abroad for education. The people will no more accept this situation and foil the activities of such elements against the interest of the nation.

Election Panel Announces Local Council Polls

BK261559 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] The Election Commission has announced the election schedule for Union Parishads [councils] throughout the country. A press release issued by the commission says returning officers will accept nomination papers on the 10th of next month. Scrutiny of nomination papers will be held on the following day. The last date for withdrawal of candidature is the 16th. Polls will be held from the 10th to 17th February next. As already reported, the tenure of the present Union Parishads will expire on the 31st of this month.

Delhi Says Opposition Plans New Agitation

BK250320 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] In Bangladesh, the opposition parties have announced a fresh 9-day program of civil disobedience beginning from tomorrow to press their demand for President Ershad's resignation. It includes holhing public meetings, rallies, and processions throughout the country culminating in a big rally in Dhaka on the 3d of next month. A nationwide strike will be observed on Tuesday. The program was chalked out at a meeting of the liaison committee of the three major opposition alliances after 2 days of hectic deliberations.

Opposition Parties Reaffirm Election Demand

BK240226 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] The BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] chairman and seven-party alliance leader, Begum Khaleda Zia, has pledged to continue the present movement until the opposition demands are fulfilled. Talking to newsmen in Dhaka yesterday, Begum Zia observed that only election under a neutral government could ensure free and impartial polls in the country.

The Awami League president and eight-party alliance leader, Sheikh Hasina Wajed, has reiterated her resolve to continue the present movement. Addressing a news conference in the capital yesterday, she said they would not stop their program until the government concedes to what she termed as the national will. Sheikh Hasina again demanded the withdrawal of emergency and release of all political detenues [detainees] and reaffirmed her alliance's stand of not sitting for any dialogue with the present government.

The Central Five Party at a meeting presided over by Workers Party leader, Hyder Akbar Khan Rana, has again demanded immediate release of its leaders and workers. Acting general secretary of the Communist Party Central Committee, Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, in a statement has called for continued struggle by the opposition till their goal is achieved. Hindu Oikya Front chairman, Manindra Nath Sarkar, said free and fair election can be guaranteed only through a dialogue between the government and the opposition. While demanding an all-party government for neutral election, the Jana Dal has called upon all to help create necessary conditions for holding free and fair poll.

The other parties and groups which have issued statements include the Gana Azadi League, Jatiyatabadi Ganatantrik Chashi Dal, Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal, Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, Central 22 Students Organization, Bangladesh Voters Majlis, Jatiya Nagarik Sanghati, and Bangladesh Chemical Workers Employees Federation.

President Ershad Asked To Lift Emergency

BK260154 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] A number of political parties and individuals have called upon opposition parties to respond to President Ershad's offer of dialogue to resolve the present political unrest. Krishak Sramik Party has called upon all political parties to come forward for holding a free and fair election to establish a democratic government in the country. The party, at a meeting in Dhaka yesterday, said there is no alternative to elections to resolve the present political impasse.

The Jatiya Janata Party has expressed its willingness to take part in the forthcoming polls if there is an assurance of conducting free and fair elections. The party, at a meeting in the capital yesterday, called for the dissolution of the Cabinet and holding of election under a caretaker government.

Jana Dal has called upon all political parties to take part in election to help maintain constitutional process in the country. The party, in a press release, has also urged the government to immediately announce the date of election.

Bangladesh Tafsili Jati Federation has called upon all pro-election parties and alliances to be united for successful holding of elections. In a press release, the party said the election has become imperative following the dissolution of the parliament.

Fifteen lawyers of Ghazipur District bar have called for resolving the political problem constitutionally through discussions. They have also asked the opposition parties to shun the path of violence and anarchy.

BNP chief and leader of the seven-party alliance, Begum Khaleda Zia has reiterated the demand for paving the way for free and fair polls under a neutral caretaker government. Addressing two gatherings at Rangpura and Nowchak in the capital yesterday, she opined that there can be no free and fair election under the present government.

The Jamiat-i Islami has urged the government to transfer power to a caretaker government to overcome the present unrest. At a meeting of the city Jamiat [the city wing of the party] in Dhaka yesterday, the party called for lifting of emergency and restrictions on the press and release of all detenus.

Nizam-i Islami Party has called for taking necessary steps for holding a free and fair election immediately. In a press release, the party has expressed its concern over the prevailing situation in the country.

India

Tamil Nadu Official Dies; Acting Chief Named

BK240320 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Excerpts] The Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr M.G. Ramachandran [MGR], is dead. He was 70. The end came at 0300 this morning. Mr Ramachandran suddenly developed cardiac arrest at midnight last night while he was sleeping. Immediately, a team of medical experts was summoned which attended on him. [passage omitted]

The Government of India has declared a day's national mourning today. All central government offices throughout the country will remain closed. The national flag will fly at half-mast. A state mourning for 1 week has been announced in Tamil Nadu. All the government offices and educational institutions in the state will remain closed for 2 days. [passage omitted]

The president, Mr R. Venkataraman, is rushing to Madras to pay his respects to the departed leader. The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, who has already left for Madras, had his last meeting with MGR when he was in Madras on Monday and Tuesday [21 and 22 December]. [passage omitted]

Here is a flash: The seniormost minister in the MGR cabinet, Mr V.R. Nedunchezhiyan, has been sworn in as the acting chief minister of the state.

Reportage on Riots, Violence by Mourners

Shops Looted, Cars Stoned

BK240544 Hong Kong AFP in English 0525 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] Madras, India, Dec 24 (AFP)—Police opened fire to quell riots in at least three places as dozens of cars were stoned here Thursday following the death of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran, witnesses said. Large gangs were looting shops, breaking windows and stoning cars, an AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE correspondent reported.

The city had been totally paralysed and vehicles, even bicycles, attempting to move were halted immediately by crowds mourning the death, witnesses said.

Police were not intervening, but had fired over the heads of crowds in at least three places, the correspondent said.

Transport had ground to a halt all over the state of 55 million people, official reports said. The state government has declared a week of mourning and all schools, colleges and government offices will remain shut for the week.

Mr. Ramachandran, aged 70, who died early Thursday, was virtually worshipped as a god-incarnate in the southern state and security forces have long predicted street disturbances when he died. In the past several people have immolated themselves when he fell seriously ill.

AFP: Police Fire Kills 12

BK241312 Hong Kong AFP in English 1255 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Madras, India, Dec 24 (AFP)—Police shot dead 12 people during riots and near-hysterical mourning sparked by the death here Thursday of M.G. Ramachandran, one of India's most charismatic politicians and a major player in Sri Lanka's Tamil separatist conflict, witnesses said.

Law and order broke down as thousands of people immediately took to the streets in this south Indian port, Tamil Nadu State Chief Minister Maruthur Gopala Ramachandran's power base for more than a decade, witnesses said. Countless shops were looted and cars stoned, they said.

Police opened fire in at least three places in Madras, the state capital, killing 12 people, they said. The police, who described rioters as hooligans, could not immediately confirm the deaths.

A 13-year-old girl set herself ablaze in north Madras and was taken to hospital with serious burns, witnesses said. When Mr. Ramachandran suffered a stroke in 1984, 27 people immolated themselves here.

The city of four million was paralysed Thursday by crowds of mourners who halted vehicles, even bicycles, in scenes described by correspondents as close to mass hysteria.

Security forces had long feared such violence in an extraordinary display of grief at what is seen here as an irreplaceable loss.

All public transport ground to a halt and shops closed as soon as news spread of 70-year-old Mr. Ramachandran's death from a heart attack.

Rioters carrying portraits of the politician smashed a life-size statue in the city centre of Mukundand Karunanidhi, his main political rival.

More than half-a-million mourners stormed the state government estate here for a glimpse of Mr. Ramachandran's body which lay in state, witnesses said. Thousands of police were brought in to try to control the crowds and acting Chief Minister V.R. Nendunchezhiyan appealed for calm. [passage omitted]

AFP: Shoot-on-Sight Orders

BK241558 Hong Kong AFP in English 1546 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] Madras, India, Dec 24 (AFP)—About 3,000 paramilitary troopers were being airlifted here Thursday and police were issued shoot-on-sight orders when violence broke out after the death of Tamil Nadu State chief minister, leaving 15 dead and more than 100 injured, reports said.

Incidents of arson and stone throwing continued 12 hours after the death here in the state capital early Thursday of revered Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran.

Madras Police Commissioner Walter Devaram said police fired in four places to break up crowds setting light to two buses, a car and other vehicles in the port city. Mr. Devaram said one person died and six were injured in the police firing, but witnesses said a dozen were killed.

Three grief-stricken Tamils, including an 18-year-old girl, burned themselves to death, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said. Hospital authorities said they had treated about 100 people for bullet and other injuries.

Mr. Devaram said police had been ordered to shoot on sight anyone indulging in violence. Night patrols had also been ordered, he said.

2 Killed at Funeral

BK251612 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Millions of people today bade a tearful farewell to M.G. Ramachandran [MGR] as his body was laid to rest with full state honor at the Marina Beach in Madras this afternoon. [passage omitted on funeral, eulogy]

Police had a tough time controlling the vast multitude of people. They burst tear gas shells at three places and were forced to open fire near the burial place. Two persons died and 13 were injured. The city police commissioner told our Madras correspondent that 47 police personnel were also injured when an unruly mob indulged in violence.

Missing Soviet Scholar Requests Asylum

BK231600 Hong Kong AFP in English 1544 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Dec 23 (AFP)—A Soviet scholar who was reported missing here last week is at the Australian High Commission (embassy) in New Delhi where he has asked for political asylum, an Australian diplomat said Wednesday.

Brett Martin, first secretary at the High Commission, said Australian diplomats were consulting the Soviet and Indian Governments on how to resolve the situation. He declined to comment further. [passage omitted]

Afghan President Arrives, Holds Talks

LD241918 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] President Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, and a high-ranking delegation, arrived in New Delhi, the capital of the Republic of India, at noon today.

President Najibullah was welcomed at the A. Gandhi airport by Natwar Singh, minister of state for external affairs, and other high-ranking government officials of India; by Abdol Samad Azhur, the Afghan ambassador in Delhi, and members of the Afghan Embassy; and by Inder Pal Khosla, ambassador of the Republic of India to Afghanistan.

After the ceremony at the airport, President Najibullah and his delegation left for the Indian Presidential Palace and his residence.

This afternoon, President Najibullah attended a luncheon given in his honor by Indian Prime Minister R. Gandhi.

According to another report, President Najibullah and Prime Minister Gandhi met today in Delhi for talks. They exchanged views on topics of mutual interest, Afghan-Indian bilateral relations, regional issues, and international issues.

During his meeting with the Indian prime minister, President Najibullah discussed recent developments in Afghanistan in light of the policy of national reconciliation, the meeting of the Grand Assembly, the new Afghan Constitution, the multiparty system, the Geneva talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan, and the development of events around Afghanistan.

The Indian prime minister expressed his government's support for the new policy of national reconciliation and for a political solution to the events around Afghanistan, and for measures leading to the end of war and bloodshed in Afghanistan.

The leaders of the two countries attached international importance to the results of constructive talks between M.S. Gorbachev and R. Reagan which resulted in the conclusion of a treaty on the elimination of medium- and shorter-range missiles, and they expressed their support. They regard this treaty as an important starting point to eliminate the atmosphere of distrust in international relations. They said that the Delhi Declaration provided feasible conditions for the solution of regional disputes.

During the talks the leaders of the two countries again expressed their support for the policy of peaceful coexistence, the positive and active policy of nonalignment, friendship between the peoples, the policy of nonalignment, and observance of the UN Charter.

They viewed the broadening and consolidation of friendship, traditional relations, good neighborliness between Afghanistan and India, and friendship with all neighboring countries, as important for the interests of peace and security in this region and the world. They emphasized political talks and constructive dialogue as the only way to solve regional disputes. They expressed their satisfaction that the high-level meeting between the leaders of our two countries is in accordance with the wishes of our peoples for growth and development of friendly relations in commerce, trade, and cultural fields. This will have desirable effect on the process of strengthening and consolidating friendly relations between Afghanistan and India, traditional friends.

Both sides expressed a desire for increased economic and technical cooperation within the framework of joint commissions, particularly in the fields of public health, industry, agriculture, and the exchange of cultural delegations. Both sides agreed to conclude agreements in these fields for the growth of relations between the two countries.

According to another report, Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil, met with Natwar Wingh, minister of state for external affairs, at 1600 today. At this meeting both sides exchanged views on topics of mutual interest.

President Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, and his delegation are staying in New Delhi tonight and are due to leave for the Socialist Republic of Vietnam tomorrow.

Departs New Delhi for Vietnam

LD251534 Kabul BAKHTAR in Pashto 1130 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Kabul, 25 Dec (BAKHTAR)—Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, and his accompanying delegation, who arrived in Delhi yesterday afternoon en route to the SRV, left Delhi this morning for Hanoi.

BIA reports from Delhi that esteemed Najibullah and his accompanying delegation, who left Delhi's A. Gandhi airport for Hanoi this morning at 0830 were seen off by Natwar Singh, minister of state for external affairs, other high-ranking Indian officials, Ambassador Abdul Samad Azhur, other Afghan Embassy personnel, and Inder Pal Khosla, ambassador of the Republic of India to Kabul.

Crackdown on Gurkha Front Members Continues

BK231615 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] In West Bengal, the police crackdown on GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] activists continues in Darjeeling hill areas. The district magistrate [DM] told our Siliguri correspondent this evening that 17 GNLF activists were arrested in a nightlong raid from three different places in Darjeeling town. Six of them have been arrested under the Antiterrorist Act.

The DM said attendance in government offices in Darjeeling and Kalimpong continues to be thin, while it has improved in Kurseong. Reports of intimidation and obstruction of willing employees by agitationists have also come in.

The Darjeeling District administration today took a tough stand on striking employees. In an announcement, it said the striking employees will be penalized with pay cut, break in service, and even dismissal if they fail to justify their absence in writing.

The director general of police said in Siliguri that the morale of the police in Darjeeling, Kurseong, and Kalimpong is very high and they are doing an excellent job. Talking to newsmen after a 3-day visit to the hill areas, he said that he has held a series of discussions with local officials to assess the requirements of the force to meet the recent spate in violence in these areas.

1 Gurkha Supporter Killed

BK251304 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] One GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] supporter was killed and another injured in an encounter with police at (Samsingh) in Kalimpong subdivision of West Bengal this morning. This happened when police conducted raids on the hideouts of GNLF supporters indulging in violence. The GNLF activists set up road blocks to obstruct the movement of police. They also fired at the police party. One police constable was injured. Four GNLF supporters have been arrested.

Police have recovered some guns, a number of bombs, and explosive material during the raid. More than 40 persons have so far been arrested from various parts of the Darjeeling District under the provisions of the Antiterrorist Act. Violence by the GNLF continued elsewhere in the district with the activists throwing bombs on BSF [Border Security Force] camps and police stations.

'Hardcore Terrorist' Killed in Punjab 24 Dec

BK251622 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] In Punjab, a hardcore terrorist, Avtar Singh Roopewali, and another terrorist were among the killed in an encounter with the security forces at Sakurpura Village near Batala last night. Avtar Singh carried a reward of 1 lakh rupees and was wanted in connection with several killings, including the murder of the BJP leader, Mr Ram Luvaya.

Sikh Temple Official Killed by 'Terrorists'

BK260321 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] In Amritsar [in Punjab], terrorists tortured one person to death and seriously injured another in the Golden Temple yesterday. According to an official spokesman, the killed has been identified as Mr Mohinder Singh and the injured Mr Bachchan Singh—both employees of the SGPC. The terrorists tortured them in a room in the parikrama [walkway] of the temple and later threw them out. According to the injured person, the terrorists also tortured another youth, Mr Major Singh, whose fate is not known.

In another incident in the Golden Temple, a woman pilgrim received a bullet injury in her leg. The spokesman said she along with her husband had gone to the temple to offer prayers.

Iran

Navy Fires Warning Shots at U.S. Helicopters

LD241802 Tehran IRNA in English 1757 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 24 IRNA—Warning shots fired by Iranian naval units forced the two U.S. helicopters attempting to disrupt patrol missions in the Persian Gulf today, to flee the scene.

The provocative U.S. chopters at first tried to ignore radio messages by Iranian naval units, warning them to stay clear. But eventually they fled the area when the naval units fired warning shots.

The incident follows similar futile moves by the U.S. forces to disrupt lawful activities of the Iranian combatants, carried out in line with international regulations.

The Islamic Republic had categorically protested Washington's previous aggressive measures in the Persian Gulf.

IRGC Shells Iraqi Supply Vessel

LD281042 Tehran IRNA in English 1039 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 28, IRNA—A large Iraqi vessel was hit and set ablaze near Al-Ummayah jetty by the coastal artillery fire of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), Sunday afternoon.

The IRGC central headquarters in a statement issued here Monday said the vessel was carrying munition and supplies for the Iraqi forces in Al-Ummayah jetty which was hit and sustained heavy damage.

Meanwhile the IRGC forces in several occasions opened fire on Al-Ummayah jetty killing a large number of enemy forces and causing damage to enemy munition.

Majlis Speaker Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

Sermon on Social Matters

LD252110 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1524 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Friday prayers sermon delivered by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Majlis, on 25 December in Tehran]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [Koranic passage praising Prophet Muhammad omitted] In our previous discussion on social justice in the chapter on oppression and arrogance, we discussed the characteristics of the arrogant, particularly prodigality. In one sermon we described the undesirable consequences of prodigality. Basing our discussion on the characteristics of arrogant people, we added that these peculiar features of arrogant people give rise to selfishness, pomp, self-importance, and looking down on others. These lead to arrogance and an arrogant person believes he has more rights than others. He thinks that the realities of life give him the right to be better off and have a greater share of divine gifts. [passage omitted on examples of prodigality in Koran]

I thought now that we have begun this discussion, I must explain a principled chapter on social matters based on his holiness the imam's viewpoints which he raised during the past year. The opinion of his holiness is fully related to my discussion. In my view, the sermon I am going to read now is one of the most important. It goes beyond general preaching to discuss essential issues. In principle, this can provide a base for many issues that exist in our society. God willing, the brothers and sisters will pay proper attention, and the mass media, the writers and artists, will work on what I am going to say because these strong points are derived from his holiness the imam's remarks and from the essence of Islam. Naturally, I do not have the time to do their jobs myself. I can only spend time on the sermons.

In this chapter of our discussion, we crushed the arrogant side, yet we do not accept the idea of submitting to oppression. As we have said, God does not admire either the arrogant person or the person who submits to oppression. The appropriate path for mankind is the one proposed by the Koran, which says: We have created all of you equally and you all should follow moderation. With this path shown to us by God, we should become an example for the rest of the world, an example for humanity. This is the significant issue of this Islamic Revolution. To struggle against the United States, Britain, and arrogance in general, and to fight against the counterrevolution, the elements of corruption, being remiss, and many other things are all important. However, the most significant point for us is to be able to raise Islam as an alternative in human society. We should be able to place this alternative at the disposal of mankind by our own example and the way we implement it.

I believe that the difficulties we face in this arena are more problematic than those we face on the battlefield, in the economic arena, and so on. It is a very difficult task to try to make our lives an example by following the path of God, the true Islam, the pure path, without any deviation to the right or the left, and to follow the will of the Koran. You might at first say: What sort of difficulty is this? The people are Muslim. The Koran is here and contains many sayings. However, this is not the problem. It is even difficult for our ulema and high-ranking jurisprudents, who spend their lives trying to understand Islam, to understand these issues. It is even more difficult for them to implement these issues under existing circumstances and still more difficult to explain them.

We are a long way from the pure Islam that existed at the time of the noble prophet, the Islam in the mind and behavior of the prophet himself. Undoubtedly, that pure Islam is not fully clear to us in every aspect of our lives. You see, even at the time of the prophet there were so many deviations in practice that the prophet used to correct them. There were many other deviations after the prophet's time and Islamic personalities amended them. There is a gap of 1,400 years between us and that time. Yet, we have many books, sayings, and huge resources. In view of these resources and the necessity of time, our ulema should understand this pure Islam. The psychological conditions, living conditions, and people's understanding are not the same. Not all the people have equally receptive minds. Not all of them think the same way and it is not an easy task to reach unanimity on principles and ideas. This can lead to discord in society and if there is no acceptable axis in society, chaos might ensue.

This task is immensely difficult. However, God has given us the greatest gift in this respect. Frankly, this great gift—our leader, his holiness the imam—is our greatest blessing. His holiness has given us the gift of political leadership, he is the leader in the struggle. His holiness' decisive stance has solved many problems, all of which are important.

However, the following point is more important: What would happen if, God forbid, our leader was not the source of imitation? [In the Sh'ite sect, the leader can issue decrees to clarify a point and is therefore the source of imitation; others should follow his decrees] What would happen if his holiness were not loved by the religious and holy people or by those who want to believe and to practice Islam? There would be so many difficulties within the system that they would destroy everything, like a flood. One of the most important pillars of our system is the appointment of a leader according to our Constitution. We have assigned the chief jurisconsult [velayat-e faqih] to be the leader of the ummah. He should have special qualities; he should be pious, learned, know the times, be brave, experienced, and a good manager. If the leader lacks any of these qualities, society will rot from inside. [passage omitted on clerical life during the shah's era]

Therefore, we can remember when we were active against the existing government and all the existing orders, governments, economic movements, and art movements—all of which left memories in our minds after years of study, living, and meetings. These cannot be easily erased, despite their possible correct nature. One should not act out of revenge, but these memories cannot be erased.

On the other hand, a youth group, young persons and seminary students under the influence of some schools of thought concerned with struggle and mainly the Marxist school of thought, adopted a series of ideas as absolute principles of justice, which were assumed to be its cornerstones. It is not an easy task to (?bury) the thoughts and rehabilitate or even criticize or render them correct. These people and their teachers spent many youthful years engraving these thoughts in their minds. Therefore, it is difficult for them to relinquish them. We will have a period during which we must fight against such thoughts and approach the same issues with cool heads and in an affirmative manner.

We are a level-headed and moderate people. The Koran has sayings about moderation in consuming, production, struggles, cultural matters, and moral issues, both in Koranic verses and in the traditions and acts of our holy and illustrated personalities. Our theologically learned men should approach the same concept with a view to current issues and gradually clarify the required principles.

Given the brief introduction above, I will now discuss a few decrees issued by his excellency the imam so that you can see for yourselves the important issues we face. Perhaps the majority of our people are not paying attention to our problems. We are involved on a daily basis with such issues in the Islamic Consultative Assembly, dealing with legislative matters. A bill is being debated: On one hand, someone thinks it is correct, and on the other, someone thinks that it might not be in accordance with such and such an Islamic decree or edict, and so on. No doubt there are well-wishers among the Majlis members, the Cabinet members who raise bills, and among the ranks of people who act as observers or those who utter the last word and make up the Council of Guardians. They are all full of good wishes and want to reach to the real (?principles) of Islam.

However, there are differences. Recently, a labor act was proposed and it is afflicted with the same problem. Before that we wanted to discuss a tax bill but the same obstacle occurred. We debated the question of cooperatives in the Majlis but the same thing happened. We faced the same problem when we tried to deal with land distribution. In judicial matters such as flogging [ta'zirat] we face the same dilemma. The same was true when we tried to deal with schools vis-a-vis profitmaking and private or nonprofit and state schools.

You see, in deciding any important issue we have differing views. Who has the final word? Who must resolve the problem? These are not minor matters such as those about the schools or shops. One cannot hope that the passage of time is the answer. These are the bases of the country and if society cannot resolve these issues, it will not achieve anything.

The same is true of issues recently discussed on radio and television. Naturally, people do not want to remain indifferent. They want to watch their television programs without doubting their religious legitimacy and without wondering whether or not they are acting properly.

These are issues that must be resolved and fortunately, they all revolve around an axis, that is, we have a point of reference. We have a vice regent jurisconsult [velayat-e faqih] about whose final word we—the officials presently involved with the existing order who believe in its existence—have no doubt. Fortunately, the vice regent jurisconsult given by God to this nation is one whose words cannot be overruled. If we consider knowledge, we cannot find one more knowledgeable. If perception and talent or intelligence are the criteria, we have not found any other, although others may (?think otherwise). We truly have not found anyone. If one is concerned with piety and devotion to Islam, we have no one more lofty. If we seek someone illustrious and learned about creation and the philosophy of creation and about the universe and nature, we have no more illustrious philosopher than he. In political competence, world knowledge, and the ability to make suitable decisions in the current circumstances, we believe his excellency to be of the highest rank.

As to brave declarations of views, you all have repeatedly experienced that a courageous figure is placed at the center of the order. [cheers] According to our norms, when such a lofty figure utters a word, it must be obeyed.

Now, as to whether other theologians—many of whom exist and are all competent—should have separate rights to comment on views uttered by his excellency about social matters, one particular view stipulates that they do have a right but carry no authority in society. Another view, held by Grand Ayatollah Montazeri [crowd cheers] during his grace's latest lectures that were published and broadcast by radio—a very robust view and one truly befitting the order—holds that should various competent sources of reference exist and one is choosen by the public and the learned [khobregan] to receive vows of allegiance, then all other scholars' views have no authority in society. These scholars are bound not to defy the views held by the vice regent on the management of social affairs. Management of public affairs lies solely with the commonly elected vice regent jurisconsult. If the social order is to be maintained then this view must be upheld. Of course, this is the view held by his grace and perhaps other scholars have similar views.

At any rate, with the situation as it is, we are pursuing the view issued by his excellency as a reference list. It is composed of four or five decrees. The latest is that of a reply to a letter from the Council of Guardian's secretary. It is based on another formerly issued decree.

When the issue of the labor act was raised in the Majlis, some parts of the act dealt with employer-employee relations, conditions in the workers' interests. [passage omitted on insurance, maternity leave, and employment criteria] The labor minister asked his excellency the imam whether or not the government could pass these laws in return for services given to factory owners—water, electricity, roads, ports, asphalt, security, because if factory owners do not have these they cannot produce anything—and say to the factory owners: You can use the workers under these conditions. The imam said the government had the right. Of course, by government we mean the overall system, that is the Majlis, the government, not just the prime minister or the Cabinet, but the overall system with the existing laws.

Here, an ambiguity appeared to the Council of Guardians—I do not know whether it was all the Guardians' Council members, or the Council chairman—that if this comes about, the government might use the various means at its disposal—as public services are in government hands, water, electricity, telephone, roads, foreign currency, customs and so forth—to impose any system it wishes. This would force the employers, that is factory owners, to obey. If he wished to establish a factory but did not accept the act, he could not do so. Therefore, he would be forced to accept the system imposed by the government. As you saw, this was written in that letter.

In reply the imam said the government has this right, and it has more rights than this. He raised the descendants [ansal—reference to early days of Islam] issue, which he had not done so before. One of our problems in the Majlis was this descendants issue. We passed a law in the Majlis on the descendants issue, so that the government could control it. There was some ambiguity; they said this could lead to monopoly. We discussed this. It was not a clash but a serious discussion. That is acceptable, there should be such discussions at schools, in the legislature, and in all other places.

The imam said the government has a free hand in the descendants issue. There are two issues here. One view is that we should not place employers in a situation where they become anxious and accept the imposed conditions. This view does not take into account how employers make workers anxious so they accept imposed conditions. [passage omitted citing examples] In his short reply, the imam said: Do not pay any attention to what profiteers say, they are spreading rumors. This refers to those who have the power of speech, money, telephones, and connections; they still say such things. However, workers have no place to say whatever they want.

Therefore, the imam recently expressed two views about the government's right to legislation, that is to set criteria to maintain fairness—of course, not every criterion; what he was referring to were Islamic criteria, not arbitrary, they must go through a certain procedure—and about the descendants issue. The imam's views have solved our 8-year problems. The Majlis deputies, the government, those who are here, and I understood how difficult our task was.

Before that, the imam expressed another view on corporal punishment [ta'zirat]. The legislature had a problem: When we wanted to pass a law, to allocate punishment for violations, we would come across difficulties regarding one school of thought. That is, there is a decree that stipulates that the judge must allocate corporal punishment in the courtroom; if a criminal case goes to court, the judge should allocate the punishment, no one else. [repetitive passage omitted] This creates a gigantic problem in society. When we discussed this at school, there was nothing to it. However, in society a judge in Esfahan sentences a hoarder to pay a fine of 500,000 tomans, a judge in Mashhad sentences another hoarder to death, a judge in Kerman pardons him, a judge in Baluchestan sentences him to 3 days' imprisonment. [repetitive passage omitted] The leadership solved this problem. He said that Grand Ayatollah Montazeri should set the standard. He gave permission to the Majlis Judicial Issues Committee to ascertain corporal punishment. This set a precedent for future legislation, so we could set fair punishment for all offenders. This solved many of our problems. [passage omitted on decadent films and songs]

Our Voice and Vision system feels dutybound to use art for the sake of Islam, to use films and other materials to serve Islam. This is a system of public education. We have been told that television should become a public university. However, it is difficult to find artists or foreign films that have good points. However, the decisiveness of the leader and his clear view solved this problem. Research has shown that among the selection of foreign films, which are mostly corruptive and misleading, one can find useful ones. These have a high artistic standard and some good messages. It is not right to deprive our nation of them. We should find ways to use these films. Maybe our actors can learn something from these films to improve their own work. Or perhaps, under the circumstances, as we have taken away many unhealthy leisure activities from our people—for instance, the seaside has changed, night clubs and cabarets no longer exist, the parks, radio and television, and cinemas are not what they used to be—the people need somewhere to go.

On Friday evenings the children should see something. They should watch programs on Friday evenings. Well, a system cannot please only a certain group. If something is not unlawful, it should somehow be placed at the disposal of everyone, so that those who have nothing to do with our literature, divine science, or mosque and religious books, can also make use of them in their own frameworks, in a language they understand and in an approachable style. Why should we not use such films? Why should we not use actors and actresses who can talk in the language of those people? [passage omitted praising Khomeyni for his letter permitting people to watch television]

In our opinion, the Islamic jurisprudents have given the just ruler the right to issue a decree. The permission, therefore, granted to the government by the imam, enabling it to stop any wrong doing by adopting immediate and calculated measures, removes many difficulties from the path of the system and the people.

We should truly value all these gifts God has granted us. The gift of our leadership, who guides us in the face of difficult problems. Without his holiness, all these problems would have led to bloodshed and internal discords, and none of them would have been solved so easily. All of us, every faction in this country, should follow the imam's explicit views and should refrain from bringing in his own ideas. Even if one has an opinion, he should realize that we accept the source of imitation who is in charge today. I agree, there are individuals who can expresss their opinions on social, religious, or judicial matters. However, their opinion is no longer valid in the face of his holiness the imam's views. Therefore, we should maintain and safeguard this axis of unity, for this can be effective in resolving our discord. We should solve by ourselves the problem of our having two or three factions, which perhaps frightens the people at election time and on other occasions. We should overcome this problem, thanks to this divine gift, this light of guidance, this torch God has given us, and this blessing God has placed at our disposal. We should follow these views. We should avoid hurting the feelings of committed Muslims who are loyal to this system and would like to live under Islamic rule, by such issues as differences of taste or the usual differences of opinion. We should avoid that which would create sin, clashes, and damage the reputation of committed people. We have enough enemies in the world. It is, frankly, not fair to ignore those enemies and to fight among ourselves. We have some basic problems in the world with the bullying superpowers, sinister reaction and usurping Zionism. These are the sides we should fight against.

Concluding this part of my speech, I expect the following piety from all of us: We should obey a clear axis, which is our proof, and that is the imam's views. To deviate from this axis is against piety, against justice, is a terrible social offense, a deadly sin, and will divide society. God willing, such deviation will not take place. [passage omitted on Koranic verse]

Sermon on Palestine, Gulf War

LD252200 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1524 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Friday prayers sermon delivered by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Majlis, on 25 December in Tehran—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Opening passage in Arabic praising Zaynab omitted] The second sermon covers two basic issues, Palestine and the war and the Security Council. I will talk about these two issues, but not to the extent of tiring you. Fortunately, the deputy leader, his excellency Grand Ayatollah Montazeri [crowd chants], with his invitation has brought the message of the revolution to all the world's people, lovers of Islam, and to the world's oppressed. At the appropriate time, when all ears were waiting to hear a message from Iran, he sent this message to the world. This message covers most issues and we do not think it necessary to offer proof that one of the goals of the Islamic Republic is the salvation of Palestine. This has been proven by your extensive presence, you, the great, ever-present, lovable, and self-sacrificing people, who on various occasions express your loyalty, common sense, and great understanding of an extremely valuable movement admired by all. Your glorious movements make their mark on the world, like waves created in oceans by rolling stones, which travel to the shore.

Today the eyes of the world, friend and foe, are watching the Islamic movement. In Palestine, a spark was needed, and the Palestinian people ignited this spark. The interesting point is that Arab reactionaries and Western arrogance—which are frightened of Islam and want to impose the fight against Islam on Arab peoples, saying that the liberation of Palestine is on their agenda—were struck by God through the movement He started among the Palestinians. God dropped them in a place from which they were trying to flee. They were afraid of Islam. Now, in Palestine, where they cannot ignore it, even if they want to deceive themselves, Islam has attacked them. This movement of the Palestinian people is not against Israel alone. It is against Arab reactionaries and against the hidden arrogance among Arab leaders, who have facilitated such events as Camp David, the Amman conference, the fight against the Islamic Revolution of Iran, bloody Friday in Mecca, and the U.S. invitation to the Persian Gulf. [repetitive passage omitted]

The right path has been opened in Palestine. We must be careful lest this path is closed. Today, no doubt world arrogance and Arab reactionary strategists are trying to find ploys to close it. We must be very alert. The people of Palestine and the leaders of this movement, whoever they are, must be extremely alert. The Palestinians should have done this from the beginning. When the Israelis usurped Palestine, the people should not have run away. If those who fled—there are 3 or 4 million Palestinians scattered, homeless, all over the world today—were still in Palestine, things would be different. They made a mistake by running away. Those who stayed and kept quiet made a mistake, too. In 1967, when in 6 days the Israelis captured the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights, parts of Egypt, parts of Syria, and parts of Jordan, and took Jerusalem—the focal point of our movement—a large number of Palestinians fled. A number remained but kept quiet. This was a mistake. From the beginning they should never have allowed Israel to establish a safe haven there. The Israelis built hundreds of Jewish-inhabited towns right next to the Palestinians. Wherever there was a good piece of land, a river, nice scenery, a sensitive, strategic point, a high point, the Israelis took it and built towns there. They took towns from the Palestinians and spent money on those towns, while the towns in Palestinian hands fell into ruin, as happened 10 or 15 years ago. They carried on regardless. That was a mistake.

Of course, there is a point to this mistake. They were decieved by the slogans of lying Arab governments. Arab regimes said: We will fight. They said: We will take Palestine away from the Israelis. They uttered false slogans. The slogan of those poor people who fled was: We will return. Those who stayed behind said: Our brothers will return soon.

Why did they say that? Because they thought other Arabs were telling the truth. They thought Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Jordan were telling the truth. The events of the past few months have made the Palestinians more alert. The last blow was dealt by the Amman conference. Arab leaders gathered in Amman and said in secret: We must first fight Islam, the Islam of Iran, revolutionary Islam, true Islam, and then we will deal with Israel.

They said this and then said: Today the main threat to the Arab world is Islamic fundamentalism, not Zionism. We have heard from a reliable source that at the Amman conference some incompetent heads of Islamic countries said: We will deal with the Zionists later. There are only 3 million of them and one day we will see to them; they are not threat to us. We are facing a huge wave of Islamic fundamentalism that has spread throughout the region and must fight it. Of course, they consider Iran as its root and base.

When the Palestinian people heard this, all their past dreams turned to ashes. They made up their minds. It was not by accident that a few weeks after that conference the Palestinians started this uprising.

In this confrontation between just and unjust, between Islam and atheism, between evolution and creation, between oppressor and oppressed, the people have learned their lesson. God provided a true experience by letting them observe Lebanon and its defenseless people—more so than the Palestinians now under Israeli occupation—at close hand. The situation for the southern Lebanese people is much harsher than that in the West Bank, Gaza, and Golan—among them the Phalangists, the Southern Lebanese Army, and thousands of spies and others who are working to endanger the regional situation.

In the West Bank, despite the Israeli presence, people are united. When they say that the Lebanese fought back and threw out the Israelis, the Americans, the Italians, the French, and the British, by standing firmly on their own two feet against thousands of Israeli missiles and air raids, they learned their true experience. Prior to that they had seen our people with empty hands discard the armed-to-the-teeth and hellish Pahlavi regime on the refuse heap of history. They now see that the people are single-handedly fighting global arrogance without flinching. They can see there is a way. [repetitive passage omitted] Of course, this path is not an easy one. Blood, prison, torture, and shortages have been our lot. It is the same in our country and in Lebanon. [repetitive passage omitted]

However, I fear that the sacred flame may be extinguished by their incompetent leaders, infiltrations, reactionary Arab leaders, and the cultural means at their disposal which deceive the people and give false promises. These machinations have been rife during the past 30 or 40 years. This danger threatens right-thinking nations and governments. However, the Palestinian people must also resist because they will attain victory by this approach. [crowd cheers]

The innocence of the Palestinian people is not a new issue, nor is their wrath at Israel, because they were always angry at Israel. The new issue is their attention to an achievement by the Islamic Revolution and also their disappointment at Muslim-like but infidel figures who falsely claim control over the liberation of Palestine on behalf of Arab statesmen. These very points caused the recent events. The correct method for us is to enhance the awareness gained and to back it with financial donations to which, God willing, everyone in the Islamic world will contribute.

Now the issue of the war and the Security Council:

As you know, the Security Council issued a statement yesterday that included both threats and promises. For our part, we gave the Security Council our first and last word. If there is goodwill and you really abhor the war and want to bring peace to the region, if you want the war to end, if you want the Persian Gulf to be secure, then do not approach us the wrong way. If you threaten us in a roundabout way by saying that if the UN secretary general's efforts in the next 5 weeks produce no results you will resort to a second resolution for an embargo—we have heard these words before. And you have acted beyond what was talked about. You brought many warships to the region and entered into war with us. You hit our oil platform and sunk our passenger vessel. You sunk our Guards Corps boats and martyred a number of our brothers at sea, without sparing any threats.

Well, have you seen that the whole situation has been turned upside down? The days you conducted psychological warfare against us resulted in our nation's making its presence felt in this arena, as you can see. Our people have registered and in some cities the schedules for dispatch to the warfronts have been filled for 10 months. Our people make many donations to the war effort, some of which have been mentioned during Friday sermons. [passage omitted praising people and donations] Your threats have influenced us in this manner. You will see further proof of this on the warfronts and understand your big mistakes.

You may go on threatening us with an arms embargo. If that happens, our nation will not hesitate. Refraining from extensive attacks to save lives and bloodshed will, at that point, mean very little to us as you are trying to impose restrictions on us. We have adopted a policy of trying to reduce bloodshed as much as possible while attaining our goals. However, you are creating a situation in which you will see us crossing rivers of blood to deal blows to you and make you wonder about your wise men in Baghdad. [crowd cheers]

What does the sea blockade noted by some arrogant regimes mean? You can not blockade the Islamic Republic on your own. If you blockade us you will have to blockade the Persian Gulf. If you do not need the Persian Gulf with the oil from its littoral states brought through the Strait of Hormuz, then keep talking about the sea blockade. You must realize though that the Islamic Republic alone will not be blockaded. If we are blockaded, all ports of the region will fall to ruin and disuse. [crowd cheers] Either no vessel will pass through the Gulf of Oman and the Persian Gulf waters or the Islamic Republic's vessels will reach their ports just as will the vessels of other states.

Therefore, we are not pursuing your comments while you pursue your threats and warnings. We have opened a way out for you by saying you should name the aggressor and the party responsible for the war damages—no other than the Ba'thist Party of Iraq—and make plans to try the aggressor in a fair court. You should also state when the rights of the Islamic Republic will be reinstated and the aggressor punished. Then there will be no need for the Security Council, the warships, threats, and warnings. Otherwise, you must come across our dead bodies and that will never happen. [crowd cheers]

Well, alongside the million-strong throng of marchers participating in this political religious ceremony today are many others who have taken part, all of whom are welcome here. [passage omitted listing various groups]

Khomeyni Receives Groups of Officials

LD281104 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Excerpts] At the Jamaran Mosque this morning, Imam Khomeyni received members and officials of the country's Literacy Movement together with (Qera'ati), the imam's representative in the movement; officials and employees of the Islamic Revolution's Housing Foundation's department for flood victims together with Rasuli, the imam's representative in the Housing Foundation; and officials from various selection committees, accompanied by Dori-Najafabadi, member of the Islamic Consultative Assembly from Tehran. [passage omitted]

At the end of the meeting the imam of the ummah responded to expressions of emotion from the audience.

Millions March in Support of Palestinians

LD251042 Tehran IRNA in English 1033 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 25, IRNA—Islamic Iran today witnessed fury and outcry of millions of people against the regime occupying holy Qods [Jerusalem] and the global arrogance.

Millions of people staged massive rallies nationwide Friday morning, reaffirming their full-fledged support for Palestinian Muslims' mass uprisings against the Zionist regime in the occupied lands.

In Tehran, millions of Muslims from various walks of life marched towards Tehran University, the site of Friday mass prayers, from various directions to respond to the invitation of future leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri who called for holding the rally by Muslims throughout the world, last week.

The marchers carried placards reading "Qods belongs to Muslims" and set ablaze to effigies of Reagan and Zionist leaders as a sign of Muslim nations' revolutionary wrath against Zionism, imperialism and apartheid.

Beautiful models of Ka'bah (the house of God) and hold Qods tied with chains as a symbol of their captivity in the clutches of imperialism and Zionism were carried by thousands of people.

The presence of relatives of martyrs, POWs and those missing in action, military and police personnel and Iraqi POWs in the rally was conspicious. They chanted revolutionary slogans calling for the liberation the Ka'bah and Qods.

The marchers were accompanied by hundreds of motorcyclists riding in the streets and chanting revolutionary slogans.

The grand rally in Tehran in support for the Islamic uprisings of Palestinian Muslims in the occupied land drew the attention of foreign reporters present at the event.

Religious and political officials by joining the ranks of marchers voiced their support for the Islamic uprising in the occupied lands along with other demonstrators.

Iran's president and head of the Supreme Defence Council Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Khamene'i joined the rally around Ferdousi Square in central Tehran at 10:40 hours local time (07:10 GMT) and was warmly welcomed by the marchers.

In a brief talk with IRNA, the president said his message for the revolutionary Muslim nation of Palestine is that they should resist and fight Zionism. This is the message of the whole Iranian people who chant 'death to Israel' slogan.

Thousands of Iraqi prisoners of war were seen marching along with revolutionary, Muslim inhabitants of Tehran and chanting slogans such as 'Qods [Jerusalem] Belong to Us', 'Shame on Treacherous Arab Leaders' and 'the Amman Arab summit, prelude to massacre of Palestinian Muslims'.

An Iraqi POW carrying a nice portrait of Qods and chanting anti-U.S. and anti-Israeli slogans said if given an opportunity he would go to the occupied lands to help his Arab and Muslim brethren liberate their lands.

The mujahidin of Afghanistan and Jazirat al-'Arab (Saudi Arabia) as well as Iraqi people residing in Tehran had an active presence in the millions-plus rally in the capital, voicing support for Palestinian people's Islamic uprising.

This group in their slogans called on Iranian officials to arm Palestinian Muslims in order to free their lands from the Zionist occupiers.

They also carried placards reading 'Saddam, the agent of imperialism and Zionism and the enemy of Islam', 'Saudi rulers, oppressors who have usurped the Ka'bah with the help of imperialism and Zionism' and 'Kuwaiti rulers, deceived mercenaries who have preferred to serve imperialism and Zionism rather than support Islam and Muslim nations'.

The streets of Tehran were so crowded that when Majlis speaker and substitute leader of Friday mass prayers of Tehran Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani began its sermons hours after the start of the rally, there were still hundreds of thousands of marchers unable to get to the Friday prayers site.

A resolution was read at Tehran University at the end of the rally pledging full support for Palestinian people's Islamic uprising in the occupied lands and calling on world Muslims to cut the hands of the superpowers from their countries' resources.

The resolution said with Iranian Muslim forces' imminent victory over Iraq's blasphemous troops, all economic and military resources of the Islamic Republic will be deployed towards liberating holy Qods [Jerusalem] and freeing the Palestinian Muslim nation.

It also called on all Palestinian Muslims to intensify their anti-Zionist struggles in the occupied lands and strip the Zionist entity of any opportunity to counter such a great move.

All Palestinian organizations and groups should put all the resources they have collected in the name of oppressed nation of Palestine at the disposal of their Muslim brothers and sisters who have started their divine movement in the occupied lands, it said.

It warned that reactionary heads of Arab states should know that they will never be able to divert the attention of millions of the oppressed and Muslim people throughout the world from the Islamic revolution, by holding American-inspired conferences or passing U.S.-dictated resolutions against the revolution.

But on the contrary, it said, such anti-Islamic measures will only make Muslim nations more determined to get rid of their sold-out leaders and establish genuine Islamic systems of government in their countries.

The divine uprising of the oppressed Palestinians in the occupied lands and the Zionist regime's inability to put down this huge wave proves the falsehood of the myth of invincibility of the Zionists, also indicating that when an oppressed nation relying on the Almighty and Islam rises up, no power or any arms can prevent it from attaining its divine goals, it said.

'Text' of Marchers' Resolution

LD251646 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] The text of the 10-point resolution of the march in support of the brave uprising of the Palestinian Muslim ummah is the subject of our second news report, to which we draw your attention:

This resolution says:

1. We, the Islamic ummah of Iran, regard his exalted jurisconcult [Maqam-e Mo'azam Velayat Faqih] and the great leader of the Islamic Revolution, the esteemed authority of the world of Islam, His Holiness Grand Ayatollah Imam Khomeyni, as the sole example for the Muslim movement and vicitimized nations of the world in their confrontation with the conspiracies of global arrogance, under the leadership of the criminal United States and international Zionists. We believe the liberation of sacred Jerusalem and salvation of the oppressed lies in following the orders of his holiness the imam and the guidelines of the deputy leader in all areas of struggle against the enemies of Islam, particularly the Western and Eastern superpowers.

2. Although the great Satan, the United States, wants to immobilize the most powerful anti-Zionist force by imposing a war on the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Eastern and Western superpowers and all the supporters—whether direct or indirect—of the Zionist regime must know that with the victory of the Islamic fighters against the Saddamite infidel forces—a victory not too far away—all the financial, military, and human resources of the Islamic Republic of Iran will be employed to liberate sacred Jerusalem and to save the victimized nation of Palestine. As such, the Islamic fighters will proudly fight against the regime occupying Jerusalem, along with the Muslim fighters of Lebanon and Palestine.

3. We, the Muslim ummah of Iran, endorse the divine uprising of the victimized and Muslim people of Palestine in the occupied territories with all our being. We ask all the Muslim sisters and brothers in the occupied territories to continue this Islamic and praise-worthy movement more intensely and to deny the regime occupying Palestine any opportunity to confront this great wave.

4. While endorsing the remarks of and accepting the invitation extended by the deputy leader, His Holiness Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, we declare: Palestine institutions and organs that, in the name of the deprived Palestinian nation and also of the forces struggling against the Zionist regime, have capabilities at their disposal and must, under the current sensitive conditions—in which their brothers and sisters in the occupied lands have begun their divine uprising—place those capabilities that they received from the Muslim nations at the disposal of these dear ones, so they may continue their inspiring campaign.

5. The courageous movement of the oppressed Muslims of Palestine proves that the empty beliefs of Arab reactionaries and the hegemonistic powers concerning the conclusion of the struggle against the Zionist regime were wrong. The movement endorses the valid principle that struggle against this occupying regime must continue as an essential measure until the destruction of this cancerous tumor and the liberation of Al-'Aqsa Mosque. It endorses this fact as a definite principle of the Muslim ummah and the deprived of the world.

6. The reactionary heads of the Arab governments and rulers of Islamic countries must know that they will never be able to divert the attention of millions of deprived and Muslim ummah of the world away from the Islamic Revolution of Iran through American inspired conferences or through issuing resolutions against the Islamic Revolution and its divine aspirations. On the contrary, such anti-Islamic measures will intensify the greatness of the Islamic nations' determination to liberate themselves from the domination of rulers who have sold themselves out. Such anti-Islamic measures will also help the genuine Islamic regimes continue their existence. The uprising of the brave people of Palestine in the occupied territories is an indication of the awareness of the victimized people and Muslims of the world. It is also a reflection of the hope and solidarity of the world's oppressed with the liberating Islamic Revolution.

7. We the Muslim Nation of Iran, adhering to the orders of Islam and guidance of the imam of the ummah within the great Islamic charter, declare our comprehensive and practical support for all the world's liberation movements from victimized Palestine to struggling Afghanistan, the oppressed people of South Africa, Moro and dear Lebanon and all the popular movements that are struggling to liberate themselves from the bloody grip of the tyrants.

8. The divine uprising of the Palestinian victims in the occupied territories, coupled with the failure of the Zionist regime to suppress this great wave—which exploded the myth of the invincibility of the occupiers of Jerusalem—proved that when a deprived nation, relying on God and the life-giving school of Islam, decides to rise to achieve its rights, no power can impair the attainment of their divine objectives, no matter how many weapons and how much strength it possesses.

9. We believe that the determination of the Muslim nations and their unity under the Islamic teaching will enable them to be victorious over the power of the domineering powers and their dependents to prepare the ground for the liberation of the two sacred sanctuaries as well as sacred Jerusalem from the domination of the enemies of Islam and usurper Israel and the dependent branch of Wahabbis.

10. We praise and eulogize all the victimized martyrs of the uprising of the Palestine nation in the occupied lands, as well as all the Palestinians who were martyred in Mecca by the filthy household of Al Sa'ud and on the orders of the criminal United States. We also praise all the sisters and brothers who have been injured. We thank the efforts made by the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Martyrs Foundation of the

Islamic Revolution in investigating and attending to the problems of the dear survivors of the martyrs and injured of Palestine and other Muslim fighters throughout the world.

Iraqi Bombing Plans Thwarted

LD252008 Tehran IRNA in English 1825 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Dec. 25, IRNA—Attempts of Iraqi warplanes to raid the ranks of marchers at anti-Zionist regime rallies in the cities of this southern province Friday morning were thwarted by the timely reaction of Iranian anti-aircraft fire.

The Iraqi warplanes violated the airspace of Khuzestan Province three times this morning, attempting to raid Iranian marchers who were shouting anti-Israeli slogans, but were repelled each time by tactical measures of personnel of anti-aircraft units.

The aborted Iraqi air raids on people who were staging anti-Zionist regime rallies in support of Palestinian Muslims' uprising in the Israeli-occupied lands betrays the Baghdad regime's close link with the regime occupying Holy Qods.

Foreign Minister on Marches

LD261107 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati, in an exclusive interview with a Central News Unit reporter, referred to the great nationwide march by the Iranian people and other Muslims of the world yesterday in support of the revolt by the Muslim people of occupied Palestine against the usurper Zionists. He said: What occured in Iran and among other Muslims of the world yesterday demonstrates that Islam's ummah, despite existing difficulties, continues to regard the aspiration of the Palestinians as a sacred Islamic aspiration. Moreover, the world's Muslims, in spite of the treachery of reactionary Arab leaders and compromising Palestinian leaders, have not become despondent and will continue their path.

The foreign minister also said: The actions by the Iranian people and other Muslims of the world yesterday are preliminaries to a stormy uprising, one that will not be stopped but will spread to all occupied regions and ultimately bring about the liberation of Palestine.

Thousands of Afghan Refugees March in Tehran

LD271242 Tehran IRNA in English 1218 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 27, IRNA—Thousands of Afghan refugees staged a massive rally in the capital Sunday morning to commemorate the 9th anniversary of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.

The marchers, chanting anti-Soviet and anti-U.S. slogans, called on Afghan mujahidin to continue their struggle until they drive all occupiers out of Afghanistan. They also called for the establishment of an Islamic Republic in their country.

Afghan women also participated in the rally chanting revolutionary slogans along with their brothers-in-faith, while carrying pictures of their martyred kins.

Representatives of all Afghan opposition groups, Shi'ite and Sunni, were also present in the rally. The first rows of the rally included scores of Afghan theologians and disabled combatants injured in the fight with occupier Soviet troops.

Some of the placards carried by the demonstrators read: "Silence of Muslims, treason against Holy Koran" - "Death to the Soviet Union" and "We will bring Reagan and Gorbachev to their knees".

Later, the marchers gathered around Imam Hoseyn (A.S.) Square, eastern Tehran, to listen to a speech by an official of the Islamic Revolution's Council in Afghanistan.

In parts of his speech, Br. Javid called on all Afghan Muslims and dissident groups to main their unity in the confrontation with the Soviet occupiers.

He also condemned various political ploys of the Soviet-installed Kabul regime such as presidential elections and formation of a coalition government with participation of mujahidin.

After his speech, the marchers read a resolution calling for an armed jihad (holy war) against the occupiers as the only solution to the issue of Afghanistan and denouncing any compromise or peace talks aimed at recognizing the Kabul regime.

The resolution also called for continuation of struggles in Afghanistan until the complete withdrawal of all occupation troops from that country, toppling of the puppet regime of Kabul and formation of the Islamic Republic.

Similar rallies and demonstrations were staged in various Iranian cities including Mashhad (Khorasan Province), Zahedan (Baluchestan va Sistan Province) and Esfahan today.

Afghan Refugees Attack Soviet Consulate

LD271432 Tehran IRNA in English 1426 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Esfahan, Dec. 27, IRNA—The Soviet Consulate here was attacked by a group of Afghan marchers today during a protest rally marking the 9th anniversary of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.

The Esfahan governor general office issued a statement terming the assaulters as "suspicious and unidentified" elements. It said security personnel dispersed the group of attackers by tear gas and shooting in the air.

According to the statement several Afghans as well as security forces were injured during the clash. A group of Afghans was also arrested.

Khamene'i Sends Message to Muslim Students

LD251803 Tehran IRNA in English 1735 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 25, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i today said that it is incumbent upon all Muslim nations to support Palestinian Muslims' mass uprising in the Israeli-occupied lands.

The president also called on the youth generation thoughout the world to get ready for a long struggle against the global arrogance and for dealing relentless blows on it.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i made the pleas in a telephone message to the 16th annual seminar of the Union of Islamic Associations of Students in the U.S. and Canada, held in Dallas, Friday simultaneous with rallies staged world-wide in support of the Palestinian uprising.

Elsewhere in the message, President Khamene'i termed the captivity of holy Qods and the Ka'bah, the two holy sites for unity and solidarity of Muslims, under the clutches of the Zionist regime and Al Sa'ud dynasty, one of the bitterest realities facing the Muslim world.

Islamic movements throughout the world have been revived since the victory of the 1979 Islamic revolution of Iran and this is what has seriously embarassed the global arrogance, it said.

The message said that the only thing which can not only guarantee the success of this move but also lead it to its ultimate goal is that distinguished elements throughout the Muslim world acquire necessary knowledge, capabilities and unity.

When Palestinian people's great move should rely on the backing of the revolutionary nation of Iran and on the help of heroic moves in other Muslim states, it would continue, the message said, adding that the continuation of such a move is something which the regime occupying Palestine and holy Qods can never bear.

Foreign Minister Velayati Departs for Libya

LD260529 Tehran IRNA in English 0524 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec 26, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati heading a delegation left here for Libya Saturday morning for a three-day visit.

Velayati is scheduled to hold talks with high-ranking Libyan officials on mutual relations, regional developments, Islamic uprising of Palestinians and international issues. Majlis Deputy Abba Duzduzani is among the delegation.

Netherlands Envoy Presents Credentials

LD271926 Tehran IRNA in English 1845 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 27, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i has told thd new Dutch ambassador to Tehran that Iran regards the presence in the Persian Gulf of Dutch forces as 'indecent and unfriendly.'

In a meeting with the Dutch envoy Mr. Hurak here today, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i expressed hope that the European countries would "take a realistic stance and no more follow America's wrong policies in the region."

"We have proved that we will not submit to pressure but would also like others to realize the realities in the region," President Khamene'i who also heads the Supreme Defence Council [SDC], told Hurak.

Emphasizing that the punishment of the aggressor would be in the interest of the whole region in the future, the president further stated that the U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf has only added fuel to the Iraqi imposed war.

The Dutch ambassador submitted his credentials to President Khamene'i and told him that his country is interested in expanding mutual relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. The president also emphasized on the historical ties between the two countries.

The SDC head also reiterated that Iran will not accept anything less than a 'just solution' to end the war, because, he said, "our revolutionary people and government with the (Islamic) culture they enjoy, will never tolerate injustice."

IRGC To Test Tehran's Air Defense Systems

LD260828 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0812 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners: Please pay attention to a communique. The IRGC General Staff announces: The ground-to-air defense of the IRGC Air Force will embark on anti-aircraft firing from 1330 to 1345 today in some parts of the city of Tehran. This is being done in order to test Tehran's air defense systems.

Tehran Cites REUTER on Ships Attacked in Gulf

LD251744 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] REUTER, quoting shipping sources, reports that a ship is on fire about 20 miles north of Al-Shariqah in the UAE. There is no information available about the ship's identity or the cause of the fire.

Saudi Tanker Attacked

LD262143 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] A tanker belonging to the Hijaz regime was attacked by gunboats and was set on fire in the southern part of the Perisan Gulf yesterday afternoon. REUTER reports that following the attack on that tanker, a 19,682-ton ship belonging to South Korea was also targetted by gunboats. According to the latest reports, the ship which was en route to Dubayy is on fire and the fire is out of control.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

Communique No 3,060

LD241642 Tehran IRNA in English 1617 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 24, IRNA—Naval forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran intercepted and inspected 4 cargo ships including oil and gas tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Wednesday, but allowed them to proceed since they were not carrying any suspicious coargo on board.

Joint Staff Communique No. 3060, announcing the above here Thursday, said that Iranian Airforce carried out its reconnaissance flights successfully over the southern waters yesterday.

Exchange of artillery fire continued on all fronts of the Iraqi-imposed war with the Iranian Muslim combatants holding the upper hand.

Muslim combatants' artillery fire checked movement of Iraqi tank columns in the operational regions of Nahr 'Anbar, Panjwin and Yebis Wednesday, setting several of them afire.

Iraqi attempts to fortify their positions in Nahr 'Anbar were disrupted by the Iranian forces, who inflicted heavy casualties on several enemy motorized units. Scores of infantry and engineering forces of the Ba'thist enemy was killed or wounded in this region.

The Joint Staff Command communique further added that Iran's Muslim combatants shelled Iraqi supply axes and routes in the western operational fronts, disrupting enemy logistical activities, destroying several strategic bridges as well as inflicting heavy casualties and damage on enemy.

Communique No 3,061

LD251757 Tehran IRNA in English 1730 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 25, IRNA—A patrol convoy of Iranian commandoes stormed Iraqi positions east of Talaiyeh, southern sector, early Thursday, killing or wounding at least 200 enemy soldier and destroying scores of bunkers and gun emplacements of theirs. The commandoes returned safely to bases after the successful raid.

The 3061st Joint Staff Communique added that exchange of artillery fire between Iranian combatants and Iraqi troops continued throughout the fronts, especially in Kushk, Thurday with the former holding the upper hand and the latter sustaining heavy casualties and losses.

In Panjwin and Helaleh, northwestern and western sectors, Iranian artillery fire silenced Iraqi tank fire thursday, destroying or damaging several enemy tanks.

The heavy artillery fire of Iran's Muslim combatants checked Iraqi engineering operations in Mehran war theater, western sector, Thursday, inflicting heavy losses on several enemy engineering vehicles.

On Thursday, the Islamic Republic's Air Force successfully carried out its missions over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman. The Navy continued to check shipping around the Strait of Hormuz in addition to carrying out special defensive missions in the territorial and international waters.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and an enemy command jeep and six gun emplacements were destroyed in parts of the southern and western fronts in artillery duels with Iranian Gendarmerie forces Thursday, the Communique said.

Communique No 3,062

LD261719 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec 26, IRNA—Iranian Navy intercepted and inspected nine cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Friday, but allowed them to continue voyage after finding there was no Iraqi-bound Cargo aboard, said the daily Joint Staff Command communique here today.

Military Communique No. 3062 added that the Iranian airforce planes successfully carried out their reconnaissance missions over the southern waters, in accordance with international rules.

Artillery and tank fire of Muslim combatants heavily pounded enemy positions, inflicting substantial casualties in men and equipment throughout the fronts, and setting ablaze several Iraqi tanks in operational regions of Yebis and Chazabeh during the past 24 hours.

In the western fronts, Muslim combatants' timely artillery fire on Iraqi positions in the Kani-Sheykh region disrupted engineering activities of the enemy Friday inflicting heavy damage.

Elsewhere in the Badrah and Zurbatiyah operational regions Friday, movements of enemy motorized columns were halted by the heavy fire of the Muslim combatants.

The gendarmerie forces shelled concentration site of Iraqi Ba'thist forces, killing several enemy soldiers, Friday, concluded the communique.

Communique No 3,063

LD271641 Tehran IRNA in English 1616 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 27, IRNA—Iraqi forces sustained heavy losses in men and equipment throughout the battlefields in artillery duels with Iran's Muslim combatants Saturday, said a military communique here Sunday.

The 3063rd Joint Staff communique said that exchange of artillery and mortar fire continued throughout the fronts Saturday, raging somewhat more heavily in Talaiyeh, southern sector, where a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy gun emplacements and a command jeep were destroyed.

The Islamic Republic's Air Force successfully carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman Saturday in line with international regulations to reconnoiter position of foreign ships.

An Iraqi patrol convey attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in Qasr-e Shirin war theater, western sector, Saturday, sustained several casualties and was forced to flee by the artillery fire of the Muslim combatants.

Heavy Iranian artillery fire silenced the fire of Iraqi tank squadrons in Nahr 'Anbar, western fronts, Saturday, inflicting heavy losses on enemy tanks.

Iranian gendarmerie forces traded heavy artillery fire with Iraqi troops in parts of the western and southern fronts Saturday, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and setting fire to six gun emplacements and a munitions dump of theirs.

In Hoseyniyeh southern fronts, Iranian artillery fire prevented Iraqi engineering units from setting up embankments Saturday, inflicting heavy casualties and losses on them, concluded the communique.

Pakistan

2 Car Bomb Blasts in Islamabad Reported

BK261528 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] Two incidents of car bomb blasts occurred at two different places in Islamabad this evening. The blasts damaged several vehicles and shattered window panes in a number of shops. Details are awaited.

Islamabad Explosions Detailed

BK261636 Hong Kong AFP in English 1628 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 26 (AFP)—Two powerful car bombs went off in crowded markets in the Pakistani capital Saturday injuring a dozen people and causing extensive damage to dozens of shops and vehicles, witnesses said. Witnesses said one person had died in the blasts.

Police could not immediately confirm the death but said four people had been seriously injured by flying glass and shrapnel.

In the first such attack in the capital since a wave of bombings began in January, unidentified saboteurs parked two cars in the city's busiest shoppings centres, Ayub Market and Super Market, police said. The bombs went off simultaneously, shaking the city around 6.45 p.m. (1345 GMT). Several other cars caught fire and nearby shops were badly damaged, witnesses said.

The Pakistan authorities have blamed previous bomb attacks on agents of KHAD, Kabul's secret service. The blasts came on the eighth anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, observers noted.

Some 200 people have died in bomb attacks this year, Pakistan officials have said.

The blast at the Super Market complex was caused by two car bombs parked very close to each other while a third exploded in Ayub Market, sources said later.

Bomb disposal units were studying the damage and trying to determine the size and type of bomb used, sources said.

Security in Islamabad has been tightened considerably as a result of bomb attacks around the country. There have been several bomb blasts in the Pakistani border town of Peshawar, home to many Afghan refugees and mujahidin grou, which have claimed many lives.

Pakistan recently sentenced an alleged KHAD agent for his part in two bomb blasts in Peshawar which killed several people.

"By such terrorist activities the enemy wants to create panic in the country. But the government can not be unnerved by such cowardly acts," Pakistan Interior Minister Nasim Ahmad Ahir said recently.

Zia, Junejo Condemn Blasts

BK270940 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo have expressed sympathy with the people affected by bomb blasts in Islamabad yesterday evening. They have strongly condemned this heinous crime against innocent civilians. The prime minister assured the people that the government will deal firmly with such criminals. Mohammad Khan Junejo instructed the administration to spare no effort in tracking down the criminals. He also directed hospital authorities to provide the fullest medical care possible to the injured.

Interior Minister Malik Nasir Ahmad Ahir has expressed grief and anguish over the bomb blasts and described them as a premeditated activity of international terrorism. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad last night, he said law enforcement agencies have been put on alert to protect the life and property of the people.

Junejo Visits Blast Sites

BK271005 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, this morning visited the two markets in Islamabad which were the scene of car bomb blasts last evening. He went round the damaged shops at both the places and talked to the shopkeepers who explained to him the damages they had sustained from the blasts. The prime minister also visited the Federal Government Services Hospital and the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences where those injured from the blast are being treated. He talked to patients and asked about their condition. He also directed the doctors to spare no effort in the treatment of the injured.

Talking to newsmen, the prime minister condemned the dastardly attempts by foreign saboteurs and assured the people that the government is fully alive to the situation and prepared to tackle the problem in a most effective manner. The elected government, he said, considers it its duty to protect the life and property of citizens everywhere in the country and also in the capital, Islamabad. Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo said a foolproof plan will soon be implemented to put an end to bomb blasts and other sabotage activities so that no one will dare to play with the life and property of peace-loving people of Pakistan.

The prime minister announced a compensation of 50,000 rupees to the family of the person who lost his life as a result of the injury due to the blast in [name indistinct]. He said those injured will be provided compensatiwon commensurate with the seriousness of their injuries.

President Visits Injured

BK280920 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has reiterated Pakistan's resolve to stick to its principled stand on Afghanistan, till the withdrawal of foreign troops from that country. He was talking to newsmen at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences in Islamabad today where he visited the injured persons of the Saturday's bomb blasts in the federal capital. He said the blasts (?could have been) carried out due to Pakistan's principled stand on Afghanistan problem. He hoped that 1988 would prove the year of emancipation to the people of Afghanistan. The president said the government is taking effective steps to check sabotage not only in Islamabad but throughout the country and hoped that it would succeed in its endeavor.

Radio Pakistan's representative says the president visited the injured at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences and polyclinic and inquired about their health. He directed the hospital authorities to provide all the necessary medical facilities to the injured for their speedy recovery.

Afghan Agent Sentenced to Death for Bombing

BK240240 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] A special court set up in Peshawar to investigate terrorist activities has handed down sentences of life imprisonment and death to a KHAD [Afghan secret police] agent after his conviction in two cases of bombings in the town.

Spokesman on Afghanistan, Gulf, India

BK241152 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] The UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Mr Diego Cordovez, is due to visit Pakistan in the second half of next month in connection with the preparations for the next round of indirect Geneva talks on Afghanistan. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that exact dates of his visit are being worked out. He will also go to Kabul from Islamabad on the next stage of his shuttle. He explained that the process [as heard] of Mr Cordovez's visit will depend on the content of discussions he will be holding in Islamabad and Kabul.

The spokesman said it is understood that Mr Cordovez would like thorough preparations to be made during his shuttle so that the next round of Geneva talks is the final round. The Government of Pakistan, he said, will be happy if the preparations made in response to Mr Cordovez's wishes are considered by him to be complete.

Replying to a question, the spokesman said the talks on Afghanistan at the recent summit in Washington and reports of Mr Cordovez's consultations in Washington and Moscow point to an acceleration of activity in favor of a political settlement of the problem. He said we have received very substantive information with regard to the superpowers talks on Afghanistan in Washington from the U.S. Administration. Letters from President Reagan have also been received by President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo providing authentic information on the talks.

Pakistan and Yemen have exchanged views on the Gulf situation at considerable length during the visit to Pakistan of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of the Yemen Arab Republic which ended today. The Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that both sides felt that the on-going efforts for the settlement of the conflict should not only be continued but reinforced. They were of the view that the friends of the two warring countries should consider what contribution they can make to end the war.

The Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad today expressed the hope that foreign secretaries of Pakistan and India will meet within the next couple of months to continue their talks for normalization of relations between the two countries. He said the two sides have been in touch on telephone and had agreed that the dates for meeting should be finalized as soon as necessary preparations have been completed.

Police Battle Rioting Prisoners in Karachi

BK240026 Hong Kong AFP in English 2346 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Karachi, Pakistan, Dec 23 (AFP)—Pakistani police fired tear gas to quell rioting in the central prison here Wednesday which has left at least ten people injured, witnesses said.

All the prison's gates were closed and police jeeps and trucks carrying reinforcements were seen rushing to the jail, which houses some 3,000 inmates, after the trouble broke out at around 6.00 p.m. (1300 GMT). The cause of the rioting was not immediately known.

The leader of the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), Altaf Hussain, and some 400 MQM activists were among the inmates, sources said.

The MQM, which groups the city's Urdu-speaking population, has been campaigning for better treatment for those people who came here from India after partition and the creation of Pakistan in 1947.

They have been jailed on charges of rioting following some of the worst communal clashes seen here in the past two years in which they battled the rival Pakhtun Punjabi Ittehad.

It was not immediately clear if the police had intervened to stop clashes between the two groups.

Local reports said the prisoners were demanding better facilities.

The Prisoners Aid Society chief, Ansar Burney, recently drew the government's attention to poor conditions in the over-crowded prison.

Junejo Rejects Possibility of Mid-Term Polls

BK241528 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] During a brief talk with newsmen on arrival in Karachi from Islamabad this evening, Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo said that the recent local bodies elections have proved that the people do not believe in empty slogans. Sincere service of the people is the real measure [of popularity]. Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo said the present government has fulfilled all its promises so far and it will continue do so in the future as well.

Answering a question about the possibility of mid-term polls, the prime minister said there have been few such elections in Pakistan's history. His government has held local bodies elections according to plan, and the general elections will also be according to plan. Answering another question, the prime minister said expansion of the federal Cabinet was not being considered.

Zain Noorani Upgraded to Federal Minister

BK240238 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] A notification issued by the Cabinet states that Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo has decided that the status of Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani will be equal to that of a Cabinet minister. He will also enjoy the privileges and facilities of a federal minister.

Sri Lanka

Finance Minister Calls for Early Elections

BK241700 Hong Kong AFP in English 1650 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] Colombo, Dec 24 (AFP)—Sri Lankan Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel Thursday questioned the government's right to be in power and called for early parliamentary elections to end a violent campaign by Sinhalese extremists.

Surprising both opposition and government M.P.'s, he told parliament he hoped the government would hold parliamentary and provincial council elections next year, ahead of a scheduled poll in 1989.

"Many of our troubles stem from the fact that we didn't have a parliamentary election in 1982," Mr. de Mel said, referring to the extension of the term of the current legislature in a referendum in 1982 instead of a general election.

Later, at the funeral of assassinated ruling United National Party chairman Harsha Abeywardene, Mr. de Mel said the party leader's death could have been avoided had there been general elections allowing young people to elect leaders of their choice.

"I have stopped referring to Sri Lanka as a democracy since the 1982 referendum... the government has no moral right to be in power," the minister told reporters at the cemetery.

Mr. Abeywardene, 37, was gunned down Wednesday by suspected members of the Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP—People's Liberation Front), an outlawed Sinhalese extremist group violently opposed to the government, police said.

"The cabinet received the news of Mr. Abeywardene's killing when we were debating the JVP issue," Mr. de Mel said. "There must be a cease-fire in this fighting. We are in a perpetual state of insurrection. On an average 20 people are getting killed daily in this country," Mr. de Mel said.

He said his information was that leaders of the JVP were operating from abroad, but he declined to say which country.

The date for a truce with the JVP would have to be decided by President Junius Jayewardene, the minister said.

Mr. de Mel's statements Thursday further widened a rift in the Colombo cabinet between those who want to lift the ban on the JVP —including Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa and Mr. de Mel—and the 82-year-old president, analysts here said.

"Where is our credibility when the president offers to pardon the JVP one day and another minister three days later says JVP members should be 'hunted like dogs'," Mr. de Mel said.

Analysts said Mr. de Mel is known as a practical member of the government.

The JVP led a bloody insurrection against the government in 1971 in which at least 10,000 people died.

President Laments Ramachandran Death

BK241407 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1340 GMT 24 Dec 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 24 (LANKA PUWATH)—Sri Lankan president has sent the following message to prime minister of India. "I am saddened to hear of the passing away of M.G. Ramachandran, the chief minister of Tamil Nadu. His many years of service to the people of Tamil Nadu will always be remembered.

My government joins me in extending our deepest sympathy to you, the Government of India, the government of Tamil Nadu, and to the bereaved members of his family".

Ramachandran Death 'Setback' for Tamils

BK251532 Hong Kong AFP in English 1520 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Madras, India, Dec 25 (AFP)—The death of India's Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran is a setback to the Tamil separatist struggle in Sri Lanka, the main rebel group said here Friday.

It had caused "great grief in our struggle for Tamil Eelam," Velupillai Prabhakaran, chief of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE], said in a statement released here.

Mr. Ramachandran, who died of a heart attack Thursday, was the LTTE's main backer in India and gave shelter to the several armed groups in his state, home to 55 million Indian Tamils just across a narrow strip of sea from Sri Lanka.

Mr. Ramachandran "showed great sympathy and understanding and great affection for me which neither I nor the LTTE would ever forget. The help extended by him will remain permanently etched in our minds," the LTTE leader said.

The LTTE, whose leaders called Mr. Ramachandran uncle, also took out full-page advertisements in several newspapers here paying tribute to the chief minister, who was buried Friday.

"The Tamils of Eelam have been rendered orphans by the death of M.G. Ramachandran," the advertisements said.

The LTTE has been spearheading a bloody campaign for a Tamil homeland called Eelam in Sri Lanka's north and east which has cost more than 7,000 lives since mid-1983.

President Receives Iranian Finance Minister

LD231752 Tehran IRNA in English 1559 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 23, IRNA—Iranian Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohammad Javad Iravani met Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene in Colombo Wednesday, and submitted him a message from his Iranian counterpart Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Khamene'i.

Iravani informed President Jayewardene that the Islamic Republic's foreign policy is based on promotion of ties with Third World and non-aligned countries. He also announced Iran's support for Sri Lanka's territorial integrity and independence.

He also cited the resumption of the Joint Tehran-Colombo Economic Commission after a lapse of 11 years, as a proof of the great importance the Islamic Republic attaches to expansion of its ties with Sri Lanka.

The economic and financial affairs minister expressed hope that the Joint Tehran-Colombo Economic Commission could explore the grounds for expansion of mutual relations.

On the Iraqi-imposed war, Iravani reiterated that the Islamic Republic will continue its sacred defence until the cause of aggression (Iraqi Ba'thist regime) is uprooted.

He also cited the presence of foreign naval fleets, particularly those of the U.S., in the Persian Gulf as the main cause of tension in the region, saying that Iran believes that regional security will be restored once foreign fleets leave the region.

In response, the Sri Lankan president lauded the Islamic Republic for its assistance to his country, and the Iranian delegation for its presence in Colombo.

President Jayewardene expressed hope that the U.N. and the Non-aligned Movement could succeed in bringing an end to the war and tension in the Persian Gulf.

'Subversives' Sought in UNP Chief's Death

BK241155 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1120 GMT 24 Dec 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 24 (LANKA PUWATH)—A countrywide police alert has gone out for the arrest of the gang of subversives, believed to be of the proscribed Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), responsible for the killing of Harsha Abeywardene 37-year-old chairman of the United National Party (UNP), his police security officer, the driver and a domestic aide yesterday in the southern suburb of Pamankade in Wellawatte Colombo 6. The killer is also known, a senior police official told LANKA PUWATH.

He said, that a gang of subversive killers who were responsible for the murders of deputy inpector general of police Terrence Perera, head of the counter subversive unit last month and two others had committed yesterday's killings. Harsha Abeywardene who was reelected chairman of the UNP last week, was driving to work with three others from his home at Arethusa Lane a few hundred yards away at the Pamankade-High Street junction when a waiting gunman mowed them down with 28 bullets fired from a T-56 rifle. Later a hand grenade with which the gunman had threatened the public with, if they interfered, was thrown at the car.

1st Group of Tamil Refugees Return From India

BK241622 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] The first batch of 252 Sri Lankan Tamil refugees reached Talaimannar from Rameswaram this afternoon. An official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi today that the Sri Lankan authorities had made the necessary arrangements to receive the refugees. They have been kept temporarily in camps at Talaimannar for 3 days before they return home.

The Sri Lankan agent and the Peacekeeping Force [PKF] officials received the refugees. The Sri Lankan Government has agreed to give to the refugees a new package of assistance worth 25,000 rupees in cash and kind. The refugees were given cash allowance for 2 months and allowed to carry with them all their belongings without paying any duty.

The spokesman described the return of refugees as one of the important aspects of the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement.

Clashes Between IPKF, LTTE Continue

4 Killed by LTTE Blasts

BK231245 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1227 GMT 23 Dec 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text) Colombo, Dec 23 (LANKA PUWATH)—Three members of the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) were killed and four wounded by an LTTE terrorist landmine at Nunavil, Chavacheri, about 31 kilometres east of Jaffna Town yesterday, official sources told LANKA PUWATH.

In another incident, one IPKF soldier was killed and six others wounded when they were defusing a terrorist explosive device they had detected.

10 LTTE Members Killed

BK241201 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
1140 GMT 24 Dec 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 24 (LANKA PUWATH)—Ten LTTE terrorists, five of them women, were killed by the IPKF yesterday after they had attacked Indian troops who were on a cordon and search operation at Urumpirai, 10 kilometers north of Jaffna town.

Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that after the IPKF had cordoned off the area in their search operation LTTE terrorists had staged an attack.

In the resultant retaliatory fire by the Indian troops five men and five women terrorists were killed. The IPKF also seized two AK-47 rifles and walkie talkie sets.

Six fishermen of Trincomalee who were resting in their wadiya (camp) at Morawewa in Trincomalee in eastern Sri Lanka at 2200 hours (local time) last Tuesday (December 22) after an evening's inland fishing at the Morawewa tank were abducted by the LTTE after being tortured. Officials told LANKA PUWATH that their bullet riddled bodies were found in the vicinity of the tank yesterday morning.

Three Sri Lankan soldiers were killed in a terrorist ambush at Trikonamadu about 70 kilometers from the eastern port town of Trincomalee.

State of Emergency Extended

BK241628 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] Fifty LTTE men were apprehended by PKF [Peacekeeping Force] in their operations in the Northern and Eastern Provinces during the last 24 hours. According to reports, LTTE men are trying to escape from the Jaffna Peninsula to the Eastern Province following the intense pressure of the PKF. Organized resistance by the LTTE has almost been eliminated.

The Sri Lankan Parliament today passed a resolution extending the state of emergency in the country by another month. Our Colombo correspondent reports that the parliament also passed the budget provisions for the next year.